

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Cut to the bone
Spectrum looks at
Portsmouth's trail-
blazing plans to cut
health care costs

PARIS FASHION

Suzi Menkes reports
from Paris on the shape
of things to come
Smokescreen
Roger Scruton on the
pollution of Utopia
Robson's choice
Stuart Jones analyses the
latest selection by
England's manager,
Bobby Robson, who
announces his team to
play Northern Ireland
Micro-money
Computer Horizons
takes a critical view of
government financial
support for the
microelectronics
industry.

Liverpool council nears brink

Liverpool City Council is due to
take the first formal step today
towards defying the law in its
spending dispute with the
Government. The Labour-
dominated budget committee
meets to approve a rate which
falls far short of expenditure

Kohl triumphs in Baden poll

The Christian Democrats won a
resounding victory in the
prosperous south-west of
Germany, maintaining their
absolute majority in the Baden-
Württemberg Parliament, in the
first test for Chancellor Kohl's
party since the Lambsdorff and
Kiesling scandals Page 6

Child smokers

Schoolchildren are most aware
of cigarette brands, promoted
through televised sports-
sponsorship and children who
smoke overwhelmingly prefer
those brands, a survey has
shown Page 3

Savings up

National Savings receipts rose
by £261.9m last month, despite
a run on Grany Bonds. This
takes the movements contribu-
tion to funding government
debt this financial year to
£2,868.3m Page 17

Treaty hailed

Israel's treaty with Egypt, signed
five years ago, was hailed
yesterday by Mr Yitzhak Sha-
mir, the Prime Minister, as the
cornerstone for peace between
Israel and its Arab neighbours Page 6

Crisis in caring

The increasing number of
mentally ill people released
from institutions and left to
wander Britain's streets is
raising doubts about the policy
of community care Page 4

Prost's opener

After Derek Warwick, of Brit-
ain, had retired when in the
lead with only 30 miles to go,
the French driver Alain Prost
won yesterday's Brazilian
Grand Prix, opening round of
the 1984 championship. Martin
Brundle (Britain) finished fifth
on his grand prix debut Page 20

Extra Milk

Liverpool and Everton must
replay the Milk Cup Final after
drawing 0-0 in extra time.
Rangers beat Celtic 3-2 after
extra time in the Scottish
League Cup Final Page 20

Leader page 11
Letters: On Data Protection Bill
from Sir Norman Lindop; the
Tisdall case from Mr David
Jenkins and Mr K. Rich; Polish
research scientists from Mr R.
L. Crawford
Leading articles: Journey to
Jordan; Miss Tisdall
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Mrs Margaret Thatcher on the
way forward for Nato: The
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Queen embarks on her most dangerous tour

From Christopher Walker, Amman

The Queen today begins the
most dangerous and diplomati-
cally sensitive tour of her reign
when she arrives here from
Cyprus in a jet equipped with a
formidable panoply of anti-
missile devices designed to
deter Syrian-supported extrem-
ists anxious for an opportunity
to destabilize the moderate Arab
regime of King Husain.

The explosion outside the
prestige Inter-Continental Hotel
on Saturday, plus the less well
publicized defusing of a much
larger device nearby which
contained more than 20 sticks
of high explosives, has under-
scored the problems of a tour in
which the prime concern of all
parties now is to protect the
lives of the Queen and her
entourage.

Mrs Leila Sharaf, Jordan's
new Information Minister,
disclosed yesterday that the
attack had been followed by a
private telephone conversation
between the King and Mrs
Thatcher who discussed the
situation with senior advisers
for several hours before con-
firming that the visit was still
on. Mrs Sharaf also said that
Jordan would object to the idea
of the Queen making a visit to
Israel as she will be invited to
do next week by President
Chaim Herzog.

There have been persistent
diplomatic reports that another
bomb at a British target in the
capital was planned and defused
on Saturday morning, but these
have not been officially con-
firmed. Their wide circulation
in foreign embassies has typi-
fied the jittery atmosphere now
prevailing in Amman.

It is known that the British
authorities have turned down a
suggestion by the United
Nations Relief and Works
Agency that during her five-day
stay the Queen should visit one
of the 10 sprawling Palestinian
camps in Jordan where more
than 500,000 registered refugees
live.

The dilemma which Mrs
Thatcher found herself in after
the hotel explosion which local
observers feared may signal the
start of a new terrorist cam-
paign, has called into serious
question the diplomatic wisdom
of arranging such a contro-
versial tour when the Arab
world is in turmoil.

As widely predicted, respon-
sibility for the attack
carried out in daylight less than
20 yards from the door of the
US Embassy, supposedly the
most efficiently guarded in

Jordan, was claimed by the
Palestinian breakaway faction
led by Abu Nidal. The Damas-
cus-based group has three
leading members now serving
long sentences in British jails
for the attempted murder of Mr
Shlomo Argov, the former
Israeli ambassador to London.
Mrs Sharaf confirmed that
the Jordanian security services
regard the claim as authentic.
But earlier the Government
made a determined effort to
play down news of the attack,
which was not even mentioned
on news bulletins for hours
after.

British cameramen and the
only television crew present
when the device exploded at

Leading article 11
Jordan Special Report 13-15
Amman letter back page

10.27 am were quickly rounded
up and placed under temporary
arrest.

I was leaving the hotel as the
blast shook it, sending a column
of smoke high into the sky,
smashing windows in a nearby
bank and wrecking two cars
including one being driven past
by a Jordanian woman and her
father. They were slightly hurt.

The Government's statement
deliberately avoided mention of
the second bomb discovered 25
feet from the first and defused
by an American expert. Had it
exploded, it would have
wrecked much of the hotel and
caused death and injury to more
than 70 journalists, guests, and
Jordanian security men who ran
to the scene of the blast.

Mr Faik Bishara, a car



Anti-missile device on
royal aircraft

rental manager in offices in the
hotel said: "I watched as sticks
of gelignite were taken out of an
airline bag. In this city, you can
only be sure of an incident like
that if you are there to see it
with your own eyes. Everybody
gathered around had a lucky
escape."

Intelligence analysts saw the
bombs as a carefully planned
warning against the contin-
uation of the Queen's visit, which
has focused attention on Jordan
when the King is being vilified
by radical regimes such as Syria
and Libya for his recent public
reconciliation with Mr Yasser
Arafat, chairman of the Pales-
tine Liberation Organization.

Mrs Sharaf told British
reporters that it was expected
that once the Queen had arrived
further bombings would stop as
they had been intended primar-
ily to prevent the visit.

However, the call claiming
responsibility gave warning of
the possibility of further attacks
against the Hashemite
monarchy and also criticized
British policy in the Middle
East.

Three-hour meeting at Chequers

The bomb explosion in
Amman on the eve of the
Queen's departure, led the
Prime Minister on Saturday
night to convene yet another
meeting to review arrangements
for the visit and to consider
whether the advice to the Palace
should be changed (Julian
Haviland writes).

Mrs Thatcher met at Che-
quers for three hours, from 6 pm
to about 9 pm with Sir Geoffrey
Howe, the Foreign Secretary,
Mr Richard Leese, the Minister
of State at the Foreign Office
who is accompanying the
Queen, Mr Michael Heseltine,
the Defence Secretary, and
security and intelligence ad-
visers.

They had a full report from
Mr Alan Urwick, the British
Ambassador in Amman, on the
three bombs found in Amman, of
which only one exploded, and
on the assessment made by the
Jordanian authorities.

Although the decision rested
with ministers alone, it was
clear throughout the day, in
contacts between Buckingham
Palace and the Prime Minister's
office, that cancellation of the
visit would have been as
unwelcome to the Queen as to
King Husain.



The Queen leaving London yesterday for Cyprus on her
way to Jordan.

Beirut gunfire as French pull out

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

As a long line of French
soldiers boarded the white car
ferry L'Esterel to leave Beirut
yesterday gunfire could be
heard nearby and Lebanese
politicians were meeting once
again in an effort to keep their
nation from sliding into a new
round of civil war.

The beginning of the French
departure intensified meetings
in Damascus, the Syrian
capital, aimed at making a
reality of the fraying ceasefire
declared at Lebanon's national
reconciliation meeting in Law-
sanne earlier this month.

A long-dormant security
committee was also meeting in
Beirut to decide how to fill the
vacuum left by the French, the
last contingent of the multi-
national force.

France has said the with-
drawal of its 1,300-man force
will be completed by the end of
the month, leaving little time
for negotiators to agree on who
will take over key French posts
along the "green line" between
Christian East Beirut and the
city's mostly Muslim western
half.

On the eastern side of the
line, militiamen of the rightist
Lebanese Forces militia have
already constructed huge ear-
th mounds against a feared
Muslim intrusion. A militiaman
next to one barrier said
yesterday: "We don't know
what is going to happen when
the French leave this position
or who will guarantee that no
problems erupt in this part of
town."

The French were still guard-
ing the only crossing point

between east and west, at the
long-closed National Museum.

The meetings in Damascus
trying to shore up the ceasefire
involved the opposition leaders,
Mr Walid Jumblatt and Mr
Nabih Berri, Syrian officials,
representatives of President
Amal Gemayel and the Saudi
mediator, Mr Rafik Hariri,
who has played a role in
arranging several past cease-
fires that broke down.

No results were announced
from the sessions, or the
meeting here of a committee
made up of representatives of
the Lebanese Army and the
Christian Druze and Shia
Muslim militias.

Mr Jumblatt, the Druze
leader, said, however, that
negotiations to end separate
factional fighting in west Beirut
between Druze fighters and
those of the Sunni Muslim
Mourabitoun militia had pro-
duced an agreement.

He said after meeting with
Mr Salim el-Hoss, a prominent
Sunni politician, that he would
pull his fighters off Beirut's
streets and turn their positions
over to police and units of the
Lebanese Army's Sixth Bri-
gade, which defected to the
opposition last month when
Druze and Shia Muslim fight-
ers pushed the army out of west
Beirut.

Mr Jumblatt said yesterday
that he trusted the "wise
leadership of Mr el-Hoss but
that a meeting with the
Mourabitoun leader, Mr Ibrahim
Koleilat, was "absolutely
unthinkable".

Diplomats clear up EEC 'misunderstandings'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the
Foreign Secretary, goes to
Brussels tomorrow to resume
negotiations to "re-launch the
European Community", in the
words of President Mitterrand
of France, with hopes far higher
than seemed possible when the
summit ended in disarray last
Tuesday.

The foreign ministries of the
Ten, examining the discussions,
have become convinced that the
failure to agree, after significant
progress was due only to last-
minute misunderstandings and
failures, notably by Mrs
Margaret Thatcher and Chan-
cellor Kohl of West Germany,
to understand fully their com-
plex briefs.

In particular, London has
been assured by Bonn that Herr
Kohl did not mean what Mrs
Thatcher understood him to
mean when he talks on
reducing Britain's budget con-
tribution reached a critical stage
in the final session.

This was when, to general
surprise, he offered Britain a
fresh series of flat-rate rebates,
amounting to £600m a year for
five years, instead of the
automatic compensatory pay-
ments.

There remains room for
disagreement over the scale of
rebate, but no obstacles of
principle.
Europe notebook, page 4
Irish milk problem, page 5

Hart faces crucial primary today

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Senator Gary Hart must win
tomorrow's primary in Connecti-
cut if his presidential cam-
paign is to regain some of the
momentum it has lost as a
result of an unbroken series of
defeats he suffered over the past
10 days, according to members
of his campaign staff.

Connecticut is seen as the
only one of three important
states holding primaries over
the next two weeks which
Senator Hart has a reasonable
chance of winning. He made a
clean sweep of all other New
England states which have held
primaries and caucuses.

His main rival for the
Democratic presidential nomi-
nation, Mr Walter Mondale, is
tipped to win New York, which
holds its primary on April 3,
and Pennsylvania, which votes
on April 10.

The Hart campaign band-
wagon suffered a new jolt on
Saturday when the senator
finished second to Mr Mondale
in caucuses in his native state of
Kansas.

With all 117 of the state's
caucuses reporting Mr Mondale
had won 49 per cent of the
delegates to the state conven-
tion, compared with 42 per cent
for Mr Hart. The Rev Jesse
Jackson, the third runner in the

Democratic race, picked up
only 3 per cent.

The outcome means that Mr
Mondale will win 17 of the
Kansas's 27 delegates at the
Democratic convention in San
Francisco in July, and Mr Hart
14.

Although he represents Colo-
rado in the Senate, Mr Hart was
born and brought up in the
small Kansas town of Ottawa.
Mr Mondale, who was cam-
paigning in New York over the
weekend, said it was "very
gratifying to win in Senator
Hart's home state. As the
debate proceeds about who
would be the best President, we
are picking up steam."

Mr Hart was also trailing Mr
Mondale and Mr Jackson in the
presidential caucus process
which began in Virginia on
Saturday. The caucuses are the
first step in a complicated
selection process.

Mr Mondale is counting on
union support and the Jewish
vote to bring him a decisive
victory in the New York
primary next week. New York
with 285 delegates at stake, is
the largest primary of the
campaign so far. A big win for
Mr Mondale there would be a
setback for Mr Hart's hopes.

Hearty path, page 8

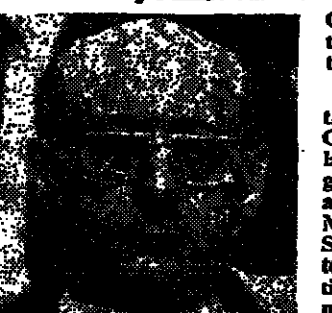
'Partisan' Havers attacked over Tisdall

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Gerald Kaufman,
Labour's shadow Home Sec-
retary, called yesterday for a
complete overhaul of the laws
governing the dissemination of
official information.

Mr Kaufman said that the
six-month prison sentence
imposed on Miss Sarah Tis-
dall, the Foreign Office clerk
who passed classified informa-
tion to *The Guardian*, was a
warning of the Government's
insidious determination to
centralize authority, diminish
freedom of expression and
suppress dissent.

He attacked Sir Michael
Havers, the Attorney-General,
for his "partisan" decision that
Tisdall be tried at the Central
criminal court, rather than in a
magistrate's court, for an
offence which prosecuting



Mr Kaufman: "Turned into
a political trial."

counsel had described as an
isolated and misguided at which
did not signify damage to
national security.
"This was a deliberate
decision by a member of the

Government to turn the Tisdall
trial into a show trial and
therefore into a political trial."

Mr Kaufman also criticized
the trial judge, Mr Justice
Canfield, who sentenced Tisdall
last Friday after she pleaded
guilty to sending *The Guardian*
a copy of a memorandum from
Mr Michael Heseltine, the
Secretary of State for Defence,
to the Prime Minister about the
diming of the arrival of cruise
missiles at Greenham Com-
mon.

The judge had set a posi-
tively savage sentence in the
context of "these days," Mr
Kaufman said. But the prevail-
ing mood of these days had
been set by a government
increasingly paranoid at the
publication by newspapers of

anything of which it did not
approve.

Dr Michael Tisdall, said at
his home at Plymstock, Devon,
yesterday that his daughter did
wrong, but felt "she was doing
right for her country." He said
the family had not expected her
to go to jail, but were not going
to "complain or belly-ache."

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP
for Middlesbrough, said yester-
day that he was seeking an
urgent meeting with the At-
torney-General to discuss the
coming trial on secrets charges
of a MIS officer, Mr Michael
Bettaney, who had written to
him from Brixton prison.

Mr Bettaney had sent a long
letter giving reasons why he
feared that his trial, which is to
be in secret, would not be fair.
Leading article, letters, page 11

More miners to join strike as pickets increase

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The miners' strike enters its
third week today with more
men expected to follow their
leaders' advice, and join the
stoppage as picketing in
Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire
miners is stepped up.

With miners at all seven
Lancashire pits pledged to join
the strike and the Staffordshire
coalfield virtually closed, the
pickets' attention will be
centred on Nottinghamshire
and Leicestershire, the only two
remaining coalfields of any size
which are producing coal.

An indication that the strike
may be starting to affect stocks
came last night from the British
Steel Corporation, which
announced a 50 per cent
cutback in production at its
Scunthorpe works because of
coal shortage.

Votes by miners at weekend
pithead meetings confirmed the
gradual trend towards more pits
closing in the next week. Several
meetings backed the strike in
the hope that there would be an
early meeting of the National
Union of Mineworkers' execu-
tive.

Some pits in Warwickshire
are expected to be working
today, and at some of the pits in
Staffordshire where meetings
were held there could be an
attempt to cross picket lines and
work normally. The decision to
strike at Florence pit near
Stoke-on-Trent was carried by a
majority of only one vote.

Agrocroft pit, near Salford,
which had been the last to
accept the Lancashire area's call
for a strike, finally voted for a
stoppage yesterday, but the
Point of Ayr colliery in North
Wales, which had previously
been on strike, voted to return
to work from this morning.

Senior union officials, includ-
ing Mr Arthur Scargill, the
president, are due to spend the
next week in the High Court
defending an action brought by
the National Coal Board over
the union's block on overseas
investments by the miner's

pension funds overseas or in
industries which compete with
coal.

The union officials, who also
include Mr Peter Heathfield,
general secretary, and Mr Ray
Chadburn, of the Nottingham-
shire area, have been told by the
court that they would be able to
leave the hearing for a day if it
was necessary to call an
emergency meeting of the union
executive.

That seemed an unlikely
prospect last night as militants
continued with their pro-
gramme of "picketing out"
those pits reluctant to join the
strike. It was pointed out that
the strategy has been highly
successful so far, with more
than 90 per cent of Britain's pits
halted and less than full coal
production at those still work-
ing.

Coal Board officials have no
immediate plans to return to
the High Court to press for fines
on the Yorkshire area for
alleged breaches of an injunction
halting unlawful secondary
picketing in Nottinghamshire.
Board officials admit that a
move by the court against the
union's funds could help to
push moderate coalfields into
joining the dispute.

Mr Ian MacGregor, board
chairman, has said that he is
prepared to sit out a long strike
rather than modify plans to
reduce output in the coalfields
this year by four million tonnes
with those of about 20,000 jobs.

Plans are being drawn up by
picket organizers to transfer
some of their men to rail depots
and power stations in order to
halt movement of coal round
the country.

Miners' leaders claim that
domestic supplies are being
threatened and that shortages
could occur within the next two
weeks. The board has said that
there are on average stockpiles
at power stations to last six
months, but there may be
regional variations.

Whitehall mole to discuss his motives on TV

By Peter Hennessy

The Whitehall "mole" who
last year leaked a confidential
record of a conversation
between Mr Michael Quinlan,
Permanent Secretary at the
Department of Employment,
and Sir John Donaldson,
Master of the Rolls, about
trades union legislation, will
"come out" on television
tonight.

He is Mr Ian Willmore, aged
25, a former administration
trainee in the Department of
Employment for one and a half
years who was discovered, while
working out his notice.

Mr Willmore, who will talk
about his motives on Granada's
World In Action, leaked the
minute while working in the
Department of Employment
industrial relations division.

£45,000 job at Lotus for Mark Thatcher

By Rosemary Unsworth

The Prime Minister's son Mr
Mark Thatcher, has taken a job
in the United States with the
Lotus sports car group.

He has been appointed a
director of Lotus Performance
Cars, a privately owned company
in America. His salary will be
£45,000 a year.

Mr Thatcher's full-time job
will be to help set up a chain of
Lotus dealerships in the US and
Canada.

His new boss, Mr David
Wickins, chairman of Group
Lotus, also employs Mr Denis
Thatcher as a director of
another of his companies.

The appointment comes in
the wake of continuing contro-
versy over Mr Mark Thatcher's
involvement in a £300m build-
ing contract in Oman.

Family Week. 1st to 7th April.



Family Week is a special time for The
Children's Society.

It is a week when thousands of our
supporters not only raise money, but show the
entire country just how The Children's Society
helps those in need.

Each year, nearly 7000 children and
families benefit from our work.

But there are still many more who need our
help. So please see if you can spare a little time
to help us during Family Week.

Would you be able to organise a door-to-
door collection in your parish? Or run a fund
raising event?

Or join others in your area already donating
a few hours of their time for the children in
our care?

Whatever you can do will be greatly
appreciated. By both us and our family of
thousands.

Please complete the coupon below and
return it to: The Church of England Children's
Society, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road,
London SE11 4QD.

Name _____
Address _____

I would like to organise a door to door collection in my
parish during Family Week (please tick)
I am pleased to donate £ _____ towards the
Family Week appeal. (Gifts over £10 can be covenant.)

The Children's Society.

Liverpool embarks on final moves towards financial chaos

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Shortly after two this afternoon Liverpool City Council will take the first public steps towards its long-heralded confrontation with the law which requires municipal budgets to balance.

Its budget committee, dominated by the council, by hard-line Labour, will approve a rate increase for 1984-85 of between 5 and 10 per cent - insufficient by many millions of pounds to pay for planned spending.

If adopted by the full council, which meets amid unprecedented publicity on Thursday, this strategy will lead to financial default. Councillors who vote for it risk being charged, bankrupted and barred from office.

Labour will present to the council a budget involving expenditure of about £265m and income of about £220m. At least half a dozen of the 51-strong Labour group will vote against. The Liberals and Tories must 48 votes (28 and 20 respectively). The defeat of the extreme budget seems likely.

But an alternative balanced budget, published in outline by the Liberals this month, might not get the support of the Conservatives or Labour's rebels. Without a rate levy on April 1, the city would run out of money within weeks.

Either way the declining port city, which traces its local government back to the days when slaves left the Mersey

faces the risk of a town hall paralysis, and a place alongside Clay Cross and Poplar in the annals of municipal dereliction.

Civil servants in the Home Office and the Department of the Environment have dusted off plans for a central government takeover should local authority break down.

Events were moved forward by two decisions made on Friday. Meeting in private, the Labour group backed the tactic announced last autumn of refusing to cut spending or increase rates by more than the rate of inflation. "We expect the Government to make up the difference," Mr Tony Byrne, the finance committee chairman, said afterwards.

Not an adherent of *Militant* like the council's vocal deputy leader, Mr Derek Hutton, Mr Byrne represents the unity of various "soft" and "hard" left elements round the extreme budget plan. He is likely to emerge this week as the effective council leader, further displacing the titular leader, Mr John Hamilton, a retired teacher.

Also on Friday the main white collar union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association, announced that in a ballot of its 5,800 Liverpool members, 2,550 voted in favour of a one-day strike on Thursday, 1,720 against.

Thursday's strike, likely to be joined by most of the council's manual employees but few of its teachers, has become a touchstone of union support for the budget plan. Labour leaders hope that a demonstration by council workers near the municipal buildings will concentrate the minds of waverers on the council.

Mr Reddington, along with the chief executive, Mr Alfred Stocks, is likely to spell out clearly his advice that the budget plan would lay councilors open to court action and that some time later this year he would find it difficult to pay the wages of the 30,000 city employees.

Such open disavowal of the Labour strategy might signal a breach between councillors and their officials. Mr Reddington has so far supported the Labour case that Liverpool had suffered unjustly in the amounts of rate support grant it has received in recent years, and in government spending targets.

Because the city was run by a comparatively parsimonious Liberal-dominated regime in the ten years until last May, Liverpool's base-line for financial targets is proportionately lower than those of, say, Manchester or Sheffield, both of which have been solidly Labour for years. Like Manchester, Liverpool has suffered a fall in population, resulting in a cut in grant.



The Blue Lamp

Strikers at banking union plan picket

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Striking banking union officials will ask Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, today to intervene in an increasingly embarrassing dispute for the Labour movement.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union's 130 full-time staff are on official strike over a plan to make its data control manager compulsory redundant. The dispute, now seems set to enter its fifth week, despite numerous peace attempts.

In an attempt to embarrass the union's general secretary, Mr Leif Mills, a member of the TUC General Council, the strikers were last night planning to picket Wednesday's meeting of the general council at Congress House.

The dispute, centring on the union's desire to reorganize the computer department at its Wimbledon head office, has bordered on the farcical, with striking officials accusing the leadership of industrial relations misconduct they expect

from employers in the banking and finance industry.

Of the full-time officials, only Mr Mills and his deputy, Mr Terry Molloy, are working normally and the Bifu executive met in London in emergency session at the weekend to reiterate its insistence on the "right to manage".

The dispute started nearly four weeks ago, when the union declared Mr Ram Saddul redundant as part of the reorganization of the computer department, which has been the subject of a vote of censure over alleged inefficiency by the annual conference last year.

Bifu officials, members of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, which organizes full-time staff in many union offices, are demanding that Mr Saddul be offered a suitable alternative job.

Bifu's 70,000 members in a clearing banks are being urged to accept a 5.25 per cent pay offer, made in secret talks

Ex-MPs on by-election shortlist

By Our Political Staff

Four former MPs are on a shortlist of six to fight the forthcoming Cynon Valley by-election in South Wales for Labour.

The six are Mrs Ann Clwyd, European MP for Mid and West Wales; Mr Bryan Davies, former MP for Enfield North; Mr Reg Race, former MP for Wood Green; Mr Gwilym Roberts, former MP for Cynon; Mr Peter Roderick, former MP for Brecon and Radnor; and Mr Alun Williams, an area organizer for Usdaw, the shopworkers' union.

The candidate will be chosen on Saturday. Labour had a 13,000 majority at the general election.

● The Conservative candidate for York North at the European elections in June is Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, a political adviser to the Falkland Islands Administration's London office.

SDP 'solution' to EEC dispute

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The quarrel about Britain's contributions to the EEC budget could be ended by relating member states' contributions to their agricultural output, the Social Democratic Party suggests in a paper published today.

At present, contributions are calculated on a flat percentage of each country's value-added tax receipts, currently one per cent. On the basis of agricultural production, Britain's share would be reduced from 20.9 to 13.1 per cent and West Germany's from 28.7 to 17.4 per cent.

In contrast, France's share would rise from 23 to 25.4 per cent, Italy's from 13.7 to 22 per cent, The Netherlands' from 5 to 8.3 per cent, Ireland's from 0.5 to 2 per cent and Denmark's from 2.2 to 3.3 per cent.

The disadvantage suffered by heavily agricultural countries like The Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark would be offset by increased freedom within the EEC budget for other policies and by flexibility which would allow the overall burden to be shared fairly between the richer and poorer countries, the paper says.

Other figures in the paper suggest that Italy would have the strongest case for objecting to such a change because it has by far the largest deficit in agricultural trade with the rest of the community. When both budget contributions and trade are taken into account, Italy joins Britain and West Germany as a big loser, whereas all the other countries are net beneficiaries.

The new system does not amount of a tax on farmers, because each country would still decide how to finance its contributions the paper says.

Prices halved on London-Belfast flights

A price war broke out on flights between Britain and Northern Ireland yesterday, with three airlines cutting fares to half their normal rate, and less than a third of that between Dublin and Belfast.

Promotional fares between Belfast and London over the next five weeks are down to £27 single compared with £56 normally, and £87 from Dublin.

Many travellers from the Republic are expected to cross the border to take advantage of the cheap fares.

The battle was caused by the entry yesterday of British Midland Airways (BMA) on a route dominated by British Airways for many years.

With its lower fares, full meals service and reserved seats, BMA expects to carve out a substantial share of the market at it has done on flights to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Its entry was opposed by British Airways.

Thatcher speech rallies Tories

By Our Political Editor

The Prime Minister, in a rallying speech to Conservative Party activists on Saturday, dismissed charges that the Government was running out of steam. She said the British people had twice elected and possessed a radical government, with a powerful purpose and a clear objective.

The Government would continue as it had begun, with undiminished vigour, for it was doing what the British people had asked it to do - to change the course of history.

Mrs Thatcher's speech to about 1,500 party representatives at the Conservative Central Council, meeting in Birmingham, was planned as a morale raiser some weeks ago, when the Government's performance was coming under frequent criticism from Tory MPs.

Waters have been calmer since the Commons debate a month ago on the banning of trade unions from the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham. Dozens of unhappy Conservative backbenchers refused their support in a division.

Mr Nigel Lawson's Budget cheered Tory MPs and Mrs Thatcher was warm in her praise for a "true Tory Budget" and for the Chancellor's "vision and skill of a high order".

The Government had chosen the road for lower taxes, she said, and the reform of corporation tax had made it "really worthwhile to go for profits".

Mrs Thatcher defended her years of negotiation within the European Community to bring spending under control and achieve a "fairer balance in budget contributions, equity and sound finance" were two good Conservative principles, she said.

Mrs Thatcher went to some length to show that she has the broad vision of Europe's role, which other Community heads of government accused her of lacking after last week's failure of the Brussels summit.

● Mr Norman St John-Stevas, a former Leader of the Commons who was dismissed from the Cabinet in 1981, is critical of Mrs Thatcher in a book, *The Two Cities* (Faber and Faber, £12.95), published today (the Press Association reports).

The Prime Minister regarded the Cabinet very much as her own and Cabinet ministers as her agents. They were there to do her bidding," he writes.

● Mrs Thatcher is to be interviewed live on April 9 by Sir Robin Day for BBC 1's *Panorama*, the programme at the centre of a dispute with the Conservative Party over allegations of extreme right-wing infiltration.

GCHQ staff urged to reconsider union stand

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Peter Marchant, director of the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham, has appealed to staff at the signals and electronics intelligence centre who have refused to surrender their trade union rights, to reconsider.

In a letter to all the staff, he wrote: "I can assure those who have decided against continuing to work here that the reasons for this are understood and that we shall do our utmost to arrange an appropriate transfer."

If on further reflection you wish to change your mind and stay with us, you will be welcome to do so and your earlier decision will be totally disregarded. Finally, I urge those of you who have not so far expressed a preference, to do so now.

The letter was circulated on March 19, almost three weeks after the deadline set by the Prime Minister for the renunciation of trade union rights by GCHQ employees in return for £1,000 compensation.

Latest unofficial estimates suggest that about 160 staff out of the 6,500 at GCHQ and its outstations have refused to relinquish union membership.

Mr Marchant continued: "My hope now is that we can all get on with the job we are here to do without the glare of publicity we have been subjected to." Reestablishing "the friendly and cooperative attitude which has so characterized GCHQ in the past" was among his highest priorities.

He urged the Cheltenham workforce to establish the staff association which the Government hopes will replace national trade unions. "The initiative in setting this up must come from you, the staff, but management is ready to give any help it can."

He recognized "that some of you have been deeply disturbed by being faced with what is recognized as a genuine question of principle... and I sympathize with the finding yourselves in this position."

He said he had been "deeply impressed by the way you have avoided being drawn into public debate."

Dartington writ

The trustees of Dartington Hall have issued a High Court writ for libel against Dr Lyn Blackshaw, the former headmaster, over two articles in the *Mail on Sunday* last month.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$20, Belgium 8 fr 50, Canada \$2.15, Denmark 170 kr, France 170 fr, Germany 170 DM, Greece 170 dr, Hong Kong \$2.00, India 170 rupee, Ireland 170 p, Italy 170 lire, Japan 170 yen, New Zealand 170 NZ\$, Norway 170 kr, Portugal 170 escudo, Singapore 170 S\$, South Africa 170 rand, Sweden 170 kr, Switzerland 170 franc, Taiwan 170 NT\$, Thailand 170 baht, United Kingdom 170 p, USA 170 cent, West Germany 170 DM, Yugoslavia 170 din.

Town is run for a day by 'specials'

An entire sub division of police officers withdrew from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, yesterday to allow part-time officers to take over for the day.

The experiment, according to the divisional commander, Chief Supt Paul Dodge, was to give special constables some first hand experience of the full-time job.

"You never know when for whatever reason full-time officers may have to be moved to an incident and the specials could take their places."

At 6 am, when the regular shift of an inspector, two sergeants and five constables clocked off, nine men and three women specials took over the Tewkesbury station. The town has a population of 10,000.

Led by an assistant accountant, Mr Andrew Fogden, aged 33, who is a sub divisional officer equivalent to the rank of inspector, the 12 set about their tasks.

One of the women is a



Members of the Special Constabulary in Tewkesbury receiving a briefing yesterday from Chief Inspector David Price (left) before they took charge. He stayed at the station in case there was an emergency. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

laboratory assistant and the other two are housewives. The men include an electrician, a dairy herd manager, a sales assistant, a foreman and a sales manager.

Mr Fogden has been a member of the Special Constabulary for 13 years. He is also clerk to a local parish council, secretary of his em-

ployer's sports and social club and a committee member of the Tewkesbury branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Special constables receive no pay but are given mileage expenses and a uniform allowance.

Their first duty yesterday was to look after six prisoners

brought in overnight, allegedly for poaching, stealing petrol and being drunk and disorderly. That done, it turned out to be a very quiet and routine day.

To ensure that there were no disasters the usual commanding officer, Chief Inspector David Price, was on hand in the background.

Supt Dodge said: "I am highly pleased with the way things have gone. It's the best way to give them experience and I am 100 per cent happy with the way it worked."

Now the Gloucestershire Chief Constable, Mr Leonard Soper, will consider whether it is an experiment worth repeating.

Confiscated glass makes £1.2m

By Geraldine Norman, Arts Room Correspondent

Sotheby's found a new source of works of art for its New York sale on Saturday: goods confiscated by the US Government.

The huge collection of Tiffany glass was billed as the "property of the United States of America, formerly in the collection of Barry W. Toombs". He is in prison for drug smuggling.

The collection proved a great success with buyers. Every lot was sold, making a total of £1,223,252. The US Government appears not to have been greedy over the setting of reserves, and Sotheby's admits that the estimates were low.

That was good sense, however, since Tiffany prices only began to show signs of recovery last autumn after a sharp dip caused by the recession.

A new auction price record was set for a Tiffany vase at \$64,900 (estimate \$10,000 to \$15,000) or £45,132. It sold to a New York dealer. The Favre glass red Tolel Amara vase stands 10in high and dates from about 1910. It has a long, cylindrical neck in pearly opalescence decorated with tomato red and amber iridescent zigzags over a swelling tomato red baluster body.

Leaded glass lamps were the most popular of Tiffany's creations in the 1970s. They made high prices although not yet back to previous levels.

A glass and bronze oriental poppy lamp, sold for \$37,200 (estimate \$40,000 to \$60,000) or £39,777 to a New York dealer.

The surprises lay among Tiffany products that were not formerly in the big money class. A new auction price record for a Tiffany enamel was set by an enamel-on-copper vase, 13in high, and made in the 1904-1914 period, which sold for \$39,600 (estimate \$3,000 to \$5,000), or £27,538 to a private collector. Lilies and leafage grow up the vase to turn into naturalistic open work at its neck.

Louis C Tiffany, whose products were for sale, was the son of the founder of the famous New York shop, and eschewing his father's profession, became an innovative glassmaker, enameller, and designer employing teams of craftsmen. His ambition was to carry good art into American homes.

Printers put high price on lifting pickets

By Alan Hamilton

"There is one simple way to end this picket line," Mr Smith declared, stepping politely out of the path of an oncoming mother steering her pram cratically along the narrow pavement. "Just pay us off, and we'll go."

Mr Smith and his 27 printer colleagues of the National Graphical Association, have been keeping constant vigil for seven months at the door of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, in the increasingly forlorn hope that they might be allowed back inside to print the local weekly newspaper owned by Mr David Dimbleby and his family.

Last summer Richmond's paper was off the streets for eight weeks when printers went on strike over the planned redundancy of two of their colleagues. Mr Dimbleby then transferred the production of his paper to an outside firm, TBF at Nottingham.

The printers' only weapon is to try to dissuade customers from walking through the front door to place advertisements, the core of any newspaper

revenue. The pickets urge potential advertisers to place business with one of the other papers in the area but they admit that their success has not been great; last week's 22-page *Richmond and Twickenham Times* carried 12 full pages of advertising.

Mr Dimbleby claims that the company has not yet recovered financially from last year's stoppage and for that reason has offered the printers an unspecified gratia leaving payment payable at an equally unspecified time when the paper's fortunes are healthier.

"Our circulation is holding steady at about 25,000 but there is intense competition for sales and advertisements in this area," Mr Dimbleby said. Besides the three free papers already established, there are plans by the neighbouring *Surrey Comet* to move in with a *Richmond and Twickenham edition*.

The pickets on the pavement make a lightning calculation, and reckon that a round sum of £100,000 would more than satisfy the pride and the

redundancy entitlements of the entire former workforce.

They would prefer their jobs back, alternative employment in the traditional printing trade being increasingly scarce, but Mr Dimbleby said there was no question of printing his paper on his own premises again.

Nevertheless the pickets feel that sooner or later Mr Dimbleby will be obliged to make an honourable settlement with them, if only to be rid of the embarrassment which the dispute has caused to the paper and to Mr Dimbleby's alter ego on BBC television.

The transfer of printing to TBF last year also brought the paper's journalists into the dispute. Two were non-union members and remained at work, but the other 14, all members of the National Union of Journalists, went on strike because their union has been in long standing dispute with TBF's sister organization, the non-union Nottingham Evening Post.

Last December the NUJ withdrew its official backing for the journalists' strike in compliance with a High Court

instruction and one member, a photographer, returned to work.

The remaining 13 have stuck it out on unofficial strike but the number has gradually dwindled to eight as the need to find work elsewhere has become ever more pressing.

Meanwhile Mr Dimbleby has restocked his newsroom with a small band of non-union journalists, including a political correspondent who, in real life, is the chairman of the local Conservative Association.

Next month's annual conference of the NUJ will have before it a number of motions calling for official backing for the Richmond strikers to be restored, but even the strikers themselves hold out little hope of such action in contravention of a High Court order.

It is a dispute of principal and high dudgeon in union circles, but of low profile on the ground. The NGA pickets exchanged cheerful greetings and jokes with a jovial middle-aged man who approached the front door and was allowed in without let or hindrance. "Hi!" said the pickets. "He's the general manager."

Fight on nursery taxation

Representatives of local authorities and trade unions have launched a national campaign to protect nursery schools from the ravages of the taxman.

At a meeting in London at the weekend, about fifty interested parties established a National Workplace Nurseries Campaign to persuade the Government to waive taxes on employers' contributions towards crèche fees for working parents. The Island Revenue has recently decided for the first time to tax such payments as a benefit in kind.

In a message to the meeting Ms Jo Richardson, MP for Barking and the Labour Party's spokeswoman on women's rights, said that she and her colleagues fully supported the campaign "to defeat this backdoor attack which will particularly affect working women and their children".

Telephone blast

An explosion badly damaged a telephone box near Send, Surrey, late on Saturday night.

ALLIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY

announces that the following rates of interest will apply to Share and Deposit Accounts from 1st April 1984:

Net per annum	Share or Deposit Account	Gross equivalent (at 30% income tax rate)
6-25%	Ordinary Shares	8-93%
6-25%	Money Ready and Junior Accounts	8-93%
6-25%	Alliance BankSave (interest paid annually)	8-93%
6-25%	Monthly Income Shares (current issue)	8-93%
6-25%	Money Monthly Accounts (1 month 5 notice)	8-93%
7-25%	3 months notice	10-36%
7-25%	7-Day Account	10-36%
7-25%	Regular Savings (Current Issue) Money Builder Accounts	10-36%
7-50%	Extra Interest Shares (Issue No 3) (interest paid annually)	10-71%

Interest on Ordinary Share and Deposit Accounts, including previous issues of Extra Interest Shares, Monthly Income Shares and Money Builder Accounts, will be reduced by 1% net p.a. from 1st April 1984. Fixed Rate Share Index-Linked and S.A.V.E. Accounts remain unchanged.

ALLIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY

Head Office: Alliance House, Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7AZ.

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Child smokers choose brands promoted by TV sport sponsorship

By Thomson Prentice

Schoolchildren are most aware of those brands of cigarettes which are promoted through television sports sponsorship, and the children who do smoke overwhelmingly prefer those brands, according to a survey published today.

The survey, of 880 pupils aged between eleven and 16, was carried out on behalf of the BBC-1 programme *Panorama* which is broadcast tonight with the title "Tobacco - the Habit the Government won't break".

The survey was carried out in state-funded secondary schools in the Greater Manchester area during February 13-24, shortly after the end of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament, which received 26 hours of coverage on BBC television.

When asked to list known cigarette brands, Benson and Hedges was named first by 57 per cent of the pupils. Of those answering the question "If you smoke, write down the brand or brands you prefer to smoke", 76 per cent named Benson and Hedges. Seventy-four per cent

had watched some of the snooker tournament.

The pupils were asked to name any sports connected with particular cigarette brands. The most frequently associated were Benson and Hedges and John Player Special, and 49 per cent of the children specified snooker as a sport associated with cigarettes, naming Benson and Hedges (28 per cent) and Embassy (19 per cent).

Thirty-one per cent of the pupils associated motor racing with the John Player Special brand. Eleven per cent linked cigarettes with cricket.

The survey showed that 3 per cent of those in their first year at secondary school were smokers, 21 per cent in their third year and 36 per cent in their fifth year. Not only 73 per cent of the non-smokers, said that they thought they were likely to be smokers at the age of 20.

Dr Frank Ledwith, of the Department of Education at Manchester University, carried out the research on behalf of *Panorama*. He said yesterday: "It must be stressed that the data we provided is correlational, and causation is therefore difficult to ascribe with certainty."

"Nonetheless, it is clear that children learn a great deal about cigarette brands watching sport on television."

He said he found during the survey that 33 per cent of the children thought that smoking helped people who were nervous to relax. "The amount of awareness of particular brands among children is far greater than brands' share of the market," he said.

Last week the cigarette manufacturers Rothmans UK announced a £1m package of snooker sponsorship for the next three years. The Rothmans Grand Prix, which will be televised by BBC in October, replaces the world team championship, from which the State Express cigarette manufacturers have withdrawn their sponsorship.

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Off-peak rail fares 'could be cut 35%

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Fares on British Rail's off-peak trains could be cut by a third without loss of revenue, a new study claims today.

A fares cut of 35 per cent would generate an extra 3,000 million passenger miles on the present 16,000 million and leave BR's £1,000m passenger revenue intact, according to the consultants, Transport and Environment Studies (Tes), who carried out the study for Transport 200, a pressure group.

There would be a sharp rise in productivity, energy would be saved and there would be reductions in accidents, congestion and road expenditure.

The director of Transport 200, Susan Hoyle, yesterday called for a major switch in Government policy towards a

high-investment, low-fare railway.

She said: "Government policies over the years have encouraged people to use private cars and industry to use road haulage."

"The result has been appalling loss of life on our roads which would never have been countenanced on rail, water, or in the air; an extraordinary decline in the quality of life for those who live anywhere near lorry routes or motorways; and incalculable damage to our children from lead poisoning and loss of freedom to move around roads and streets."

As well as calling for cheap fares, the report advocates increasing investment.

European Railway, Transport 200, 25 Pentonville Road, London N1 9YJ, £5.

Watney to market US beer

By a Staff Reporter

The world's biggest selling beer, the Budweiser brand, is to be sold in the United Kingdom by Watney Mann and Truman Breweries who have been granted exclusive rights by its makers, Anheuser-Busch of St Louis, Missouri.

The brand's sales have hitherto been largely confined to the United States market. Anheuser-Busch started brewing in 1852, but first launched Budweiser in 1876 as a Czechoslovakian-inspired premium beer to transcend regional tastes.

The brew uses rice in preference to corn, and up to nine varieties of natural whole hops, is brewed for 32 to 40 days, and then filtered through beechwood chips.



Test of nerve: Handling Horace, the Haitian tarantula, was one of the delights awaiting Miss Karen Travers and 31 other young people who hope to join Operation Raleigh, the four-year round-the-world expedition, when they undertook a programme of rigorous tests at Gilwell Park Scout Association, Chingford, north London, this weekend.

Animal studies will be a large part of the research role of the operation and ventures may have to handle all types of insects. About 1,500 young people, aged 16 to 23, will attend one of 40 selection weekends and 500 will be chosen to launch the project in December (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Solicitors increase pressure for Law Society reform

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mounting pressure for reforms of the Law Society after the Glanville Davies affair came from solicitors at a weekend conference in Winchester.

Members of the British Legal Association, a ginger group, with 3,000 members, passed a motion censuring the Council of the Law Society for its "inept" handling of recent affairs and urging the association's executive committee to seek reforms to ensure that the profession "is properly represented in future".

Mr Stanley Best, the conference chairman, said that the recent revelations about Mr Davies, the former Council member who was struck off for professional misconduct, after overcharging a client by £131,000 had brought the whole profession into disrepute.

In his view, he said, responsible members of the Law Society Council should resign.

Since the Law Society's own internal report, a scathing indictment of the way it handled the affair, there has been one resignation, from Mr John Barrett, at the time chairman of the professional purposes committee.

There have been several calls for more resignations and Mr Paul Wareham, a member of the Society's standing committee, has said that all those criticized in the report should step down.

Another topic of controversy at the conference was the government proposals to allow non-solicitors, banks and building societies to undertake conveyancing.

The Government was urged by Mr John Morris, QC, from

bench Opposition legal affairs spokesman, to increase a compensation fund.

He said that he was "deeply concerned" to ensure that whatever conveyancing reforms were introduced, there was proper backing and financial arrangements to safeguard the public.

It would be "grossly inadequate", he said, if licensed conveyancers themselves were relied on in the early days to provide compensation funds to cover claims by the public.

"There will have to be a government injection on a substantial scale if anybody else is allowed to practice. It is of great importance to ensure the public does not suffer."

Mr Morris also spoke of the potential conflict of interest where banks and building societies undertake conveyancing when they are acting for both buyer and seller.

He cited a case of a building society wanting to be rid of a bad customer. If the officer handling the buyer's interest made repeated inquiries of the seller which resulted in a "no sale", his employers, wearing their other hat as representatives of the seller and mortgagee, would not be too happy, he said.

Mr Morris said that in extending the right to conveyancing, "we must not throw the baby out with the bath water. Cheapness must not be purchased at the price of security."

There needed to be safeguards to protect the customer against dishonesty, ignorance and ineptitude and from charges which were higher than was reasonable and fair.

Action on fairer fines

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office is asking all courts to consider using forms on which defendants would disclose their incomes and financial commitments.

A pilot project in 11 magistrates' courts has shown that where defendants complete the means inquiry forms courts are able to impose more realistic fines.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North, and vice-chairman of the all-

party penal affairs group, welcomed the move which he had urged four years ago. "As every magistrate knows, when it comes to consider effective sentencing, the courts have little information about offenders' means. The whole process is a mixture of bluff and chance."

The forms are intended to ensure that courts do not impose unfair fines on those with low incomes and thereby increase defaulting.

Doctor criticizes drug industry

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Misleading drug advertisements and a failure to make clearly legible information about the side effects of some preparations are among criticisms of the Department of Health and the pharmaceutical industry made by a leading drug expert.

In a letter in the latest issue of *The Lancet*, Dr Joe Collier, senior lecturer in the department of pharmacology at St George's Hospital medical school, London, complains that the Department of Health refuses to enforce the law as laid down in the Medicines Act (1973) concerning misleading drug promotion.

He says that instead of prosecuting offending firms, the Department of Health refers complaining doctors to the drug industry's internal policy committee. Yet when advertisements have breached a regulation, the companies are breaking the law.

Dr Collier cites the case of two preparations, one containing tiaprofenic acid and the other amiodarone, as examples. Instead of action, the Department of Health simply refers complaints to the drug industry's code of practice committee.

Dr Collier says that this in effect prevents prosecution and

public accountability. He is against increased statutory control, but asks for proper enforcement of existing regulations.

Dr Collier adds that his study of a new edition of the industry's code led him to discover that it does not, and never did, contain a requirement of "legibility" in advertisements. The code does not use the wording approved.

According to the regulations about side effects, information should be "printed in a clear and legible manner". The drug industry's code requires that it should be given "clearly and concisely".

Runner to have royal sponsor

The Prince of Wales is to sponsor a runner in the London Marathon in May, Mr Bernard Wood, aged 37, is running the 26-mile course for the Morecambe Bay Clinic, a subsidiary of the Bristol Cancer Clinic, which the Prince officially opened last year.

His brother Chris, aged 44, from Cheshire, Greater Manchester, was recently cleared of cancer after three-quarters of a lung was removed.

His wife, Doreen, wrote to the Prince and asked: if he would sponsor Mr Bernard Wood, a sales representative, from Rossendale, Lancashire.

Mrs Wood said yesterday: "I was amazed when the Prince of Wales readily agreed. We have been told by Buckingham Palace to keep the sum secret."

Shopkeepers' No 10 protest

A delegation of small shopkeepers went to 10 Downing Street yesterday to protest against continuing development of out-of-town hypermarkets and complaining of unfair discounts favouring large trading concerns.

The Government has shown no interest, delegation members claimed, because multi-national retail outlets make contributions to Conservative party funds.

Bequest puzzle

The Sunshine Home for Blind Children, Bristol, left nearly £400,000 in the will of a retired salesman who died last Christmas Eve, cannot be traced. It is thought it may have closed soon after the Second World War.



Vocal veteran: Mr Bill Collins, aged 81, who believes he will be the longest serving chorister on record in Britain, when he celebrates 74 years in his parish church choir on Easter Sunday. Mr Collins sings in the choir of St Michael and All Angels, Bussage, near Stroud, Gloucestershire with his two sons and two grandchildren.

Greenpeace wants ban on import of dolphins

By Tony Samstag

Greenpeace, the environmental action group, today launches a campaign to ban the import for commercial use of dolphins and killer whales with the publication of a report that shows unacceptably high mortality rates among such imports.

Of 57 dolphins and nine killer whales imported since 1969, at least 25 of the former and four of the latter are known to have died, Greenpeace says. The 15 dolphins and one killer whale unaccounted for are likely to have died as well.

Although more than 20

dolphins survived an average of 3.8 years in captivity and the killer whales for 2.7 before death. The animals "are being taken from the oceans to be held captive in tiny pools to perform mundane, repetitive tricks in order to line the pockets of their owners until they die", Mr Mark Glover of Greenpeace said yesterday.

A European regulation that came into force this year strengthens the licensing requirements for small cetaceans such as dolphins and killer whales, which lack protection under the International Whaling Commission. Mr Glover added: "The regulation does not permit importation of those species for commercial reasons."

A trained dolphin can be worth tens of thousands of pounds, Mr Glover said, and killer whales much more. Several killer whales that recently died "in mysterious circumstances" had been insured for £250,000 each.

Baby revived after heart attack in womb

A baby boy who had a heart attack before he was born was revived by heart massage through his mother's abdomen and is now alive and growing well.

Doctors from a special unit at King's College Hospital, London, tell the story in the *British Medical Journal*.

The mother was brought to the unit because her blood was negative and had developed antibodies which could have attacked the unborn baby in her womb. The baby was given resuscitative blood transfusions in the womb, to reduce the chance of this happening.

The first transfusion went well, but during the second the baby's heart began beating wildly and then stopped.

The baby's heart through the mother's abdomen by compressing it against the wall of the womb 40 times a minute. After three minutes the baby's heart began beating again.

Pregnancy had then lasted about five months. Three more transfusions were given to the baby in the womb before it was delivered, at eight months.

His blood had to be changed three more times before doctors were satisfied he was no longer in danger from his mother's antibodies, which had started attacking his body before the first of the in-womb transfusions.

Today, the doctors say, his growth and development are normal. It was the mother's ninth pregnancy. The first four were normal but she then developed the antibodies which killed the next four foetuses.

Lawnmower adverts lose their cutting edge

By Robin Young

In the spring campaign to sell lawnmowers, enlivened in previous years by "knocking" copy in rival companies' advertisements, the watchword is safety.

Qualcast today launches a range of rotary mowers called Orbital, which have plastic cutters in place of metal blades. The plastic, it is claimed, is strong enough to cut down the rankest lawn, but will not slice through shoes, electric cable or human extremities.

In 1981, the last year for which figures are available, 3,300 people required hospital treatment after attempting to trim their lawns with powered mowers. That is an average of eight people for every day of the year, although because the number of days on which Britons can cut their lawns is

limited by the climate, the incidence of accidents is much more heavily concentrated.

Nine tenths of the injuries resulted from hover and wheeled rotary mowers, whose blades whirl at 200mph and are quite capable of cutting off fingers, thumbs and even feet.

Flymo, the maker of the biggest selling metal-bladed rotary mowers, is to some degree inhibited in its retort to Qualcast's move by an announcement earlier this month that its £4m advertising campaign will not include any knocking of rivals' products or claims.

Qualcast will be spending a similar sum, concentrating on the Orbital safety mower and the Concorde electric cylinder mower. It has discontinued all its metal-bladed rotary mowers.

Panasonic/Technics

With effect from April 1st, 1984, National Panasonic (UK) Limited, will change its company name to:

Panasonic U.K. Limited.

Panasonic U.K. is a subsidiary of the Matsushita Group of Japan, one of the world's largest manufacturers of Consumer and Industrial Electronic Products.

Panasonic and Technics are the brand names of products distributed by Panasonic in the United Kingdom market.

Other Companies associated in the UK Group are Panasonic Industrial U.K. Ltd., and Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd., at Cardiff where colour TV sets are manufactured for the British and export markets.

Head office and Southern Division

Panasonic U.K. Ltd., 300 Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 6JH. Tel: (0753) 34522 Telex No: 847652 Fax No: (0753) 38781

Regional Branches (Sales, Service and Distribution)

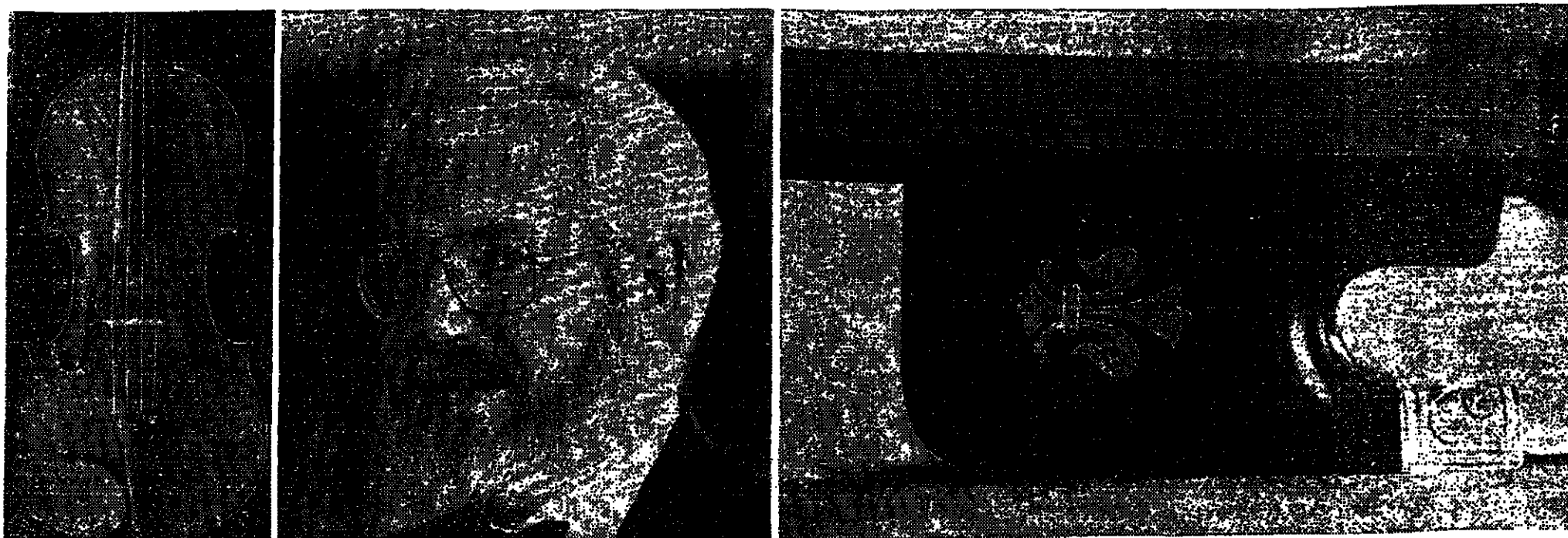
Scottish Division: Panasonic U.K. Ltd., 4 Maxwell Square, Brucefield Industrial Park, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 9BA. Tel: (0506) 415041 Fax No: (0506) 415327

Northern Division: Panasonic U.K. Ltd., Don Pedro Avenue, Normanton, West Yorkshire WF6 8JH. Tel: (01924) 884559 Fax No: (01924) 884559

Midlands Division: Panasonic U.K. Ltd., Dodwells Road, Dodwells Bridge Estate, Hincley, Leicestershire LE10 3BZ. Tel: (0455) 635452 Fax No: (0455) 619026

Manufacturing Company

Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd., Wynclyffe Road, Penryn Industrial Estate, Cardiff, S. Wales CF2 7XB. Tel: (0222) 731761



Tortoiseshell lament: Mr Andrew Hill with one of his company's violins and cello bow with gold fleur-de-lis and synthetic tortoiseshell. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Whitehall fears on left's aims

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

A left-wing Government committed to unilateral disarmament or British withdrawal from Nato could cause "great anxieties" in Whitehall, Sir Antony Acland, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said last night.

A decision to take the country out of the European Community would also be "very unsettling and worrying" for many home civil servants as well as diplomats, he said on the Radio 4 programme "With Respect, Ambassador".

Dr David Owen, interviewed on the same programme, criticized the Foreign Office for wanting to conduct policies which he thought were right irrespective of what ministers wanted. Dr Owen, who was Foreign Secretary in the last Labour administration, said that this had led to "quite a number of clashes" when he was there.

One or two senior officials used to fight the implementation of decisions by the Foreign Secretary, sometimes by means of press briefings.

Some "most scurrilous" briefings threatened to undermine Britain's position by revealing to its European partners that Whitehall was unhappy about government policy.

Briefing papers supplied for the Foreign Secretary and for 10 Downing Street would also make clear that officials disagreed with what the ministers intended to say, Dr Owen added.

Mr Edward Rowlands, who was a junior minister with responsibility for Latin America under Dr Owen, complained that the Foreign Office had sometimes refused to accept government policies on human rights.

Mental health care: 1

Drifters in an uncaring world

No one knows where Paul will sleep tonight. It may be in a cardboard box under a railway arch. It may be in a dossers' hostel. He may have raised enough money to pay for bed and breakfast.

Paul is not a deliberate dropout, or one of London's habitual tramps, although his parents find he may become one. He is 26, a chronic schizophrenic, and his home is 400 miles away on a Scottish island.

His parents are still there, anxiously waiting for infrequent messages from the few people who now and then find their son and report on his plight. Occasionally Paul, who first suffered from his illness at the age of 14 and has been in hospital three times, finds a job portering or catering in a hotel through a Westminster job-centre, and staff raise his parents' hopes with a telephone call.

A social worker has contacted him a few times over the past year, but it is impossible to persuade him, as he becomes increasingly withdrawn, that he needs treatment, as his parents believe. His job usually lasts only a week or two, and he has phases of being unable to organize himself to claim social security benefits.

The increasing number of mentally ill people left to wander Britain's streets is raising doubts about the policy of caring for former patients in the community. COLIN HUGHES, in the first part of a series, looks at three cases which pose the question: does the community really care?

Paul is not an extreme example of the policy of community care, which seeks to keep as many people out of mental hospitals as possible. He, at least, sometimes contacts the society that has let him slip out of reach. Others fall out so far that they seem irretrievable.

When Paul left a Scottish hospital in 1977 he was sent to a job on a pig farm in Colchester. Within six months he drifted away, joining the third of London's homeless who are mentally ill.

Frank, it might be said, is lucky. He is one of only 10 per cent of former mental patients who live in council accommodation, in his case a flat in Hackney, east London. A former gardener, he appears unkempt but gentle, chain-smoking on a park bench.

Return to his flat and the image hardens. Small heaps of cigarette stubs and ash litter the concrete floor. Frank prefers drinking tea and eating and throws the dregs at the wall.

Flaked paint hangs from the ceiling and soft drink cans spill out of the fireplace. The bath is full of wood and discarded clothes.

Social workers rarely find him in, and he is usually incapable of remembering to claim his weekly benefit, or to visit Hackney hospital outpatients' department for treatment. He has a roof over his head; but he also needs trained staff in regular attendance to ensure that he is medicated, fed, and occupied.

Robert, aged 39, is more fortunate. He lives in a hostel run by the St Mungo's Community Trust in Fulham, south-west London, in a house owned by Shepherds Bush Housing Association. He was sent there by Long Grove hospital in Epsom, Surrey, after spending 15 years in Moss Side and Rampton psychiatric prisons. I was the last in a long line of institutions.

Robert is well fed. The Department of Health and

Social Security pays his £83.50 a week rent, and he is learning to cope with his £9 a week pocket money. He is hyperactive, with little to prevent him slipping back except the constant attention of volunteers who will take him abroad for the first time in his life next month, to Paris. But they are not trained to rehabilitate former psychotics, and he has no day centre to go to.

One in five social services departments in England and Wales provides no accommodation for the mentally ill, preferring to house them in private lodging houses. Voluntary organizations such as Mind, the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Richmond Fellowship, provide some homes, but they often depend on housing associations, whose funds have been cut heavily in recent years.

Mr John Wilder, chairman of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre, says the rest "end up on the streets, or struggling to get by with their families. Sooner or later, if they are not helped in time, they commit suicide or die of exposure. The farce lies in the very phrase 'community care'. The sad fact is, the community doesn't."

Tomorrow: Freedom and the institution.

Tortoises ban hurts bow-maker

By Patricia Clough

Forty beautiful violin and cello bows are lying unwanted in the Georgian headquarters of W E Hill and Sons - victims of their maker's respect for the law protecting endangered species.

Until recently Hill and Sons could not produce £2,000 bows, embellished with gold, mother of pearl and tortoiseshell, fast enough.

But then the company, based at Missenden, Buckinghamshire, developed at some expense a substitute for the rich, translucent tortoiseshell that for more than 100 years has formed the nut, the block which connects the horsehair with the stick.

From January 1 it has been illegal to import, buy or sell tortoiseshell unless the object was imported or made before. There are also strict limits on ivory, which Hill's have also reluctantly stopped using, and whalebone, which bow makers used to give an easy grip, is replaced by plastic.

But customer after customer gives a polite smile after being told that the tortoiseshell has been replaced by a synthetic material and returns from whence he or she came, without buying a bow.

While Mr Andrew Hill, head of the company, is doing his bit to save the Hawksbill sea turtle, source of tortoiseshell, from extinction, other British bow makers are advertising and selling tortoiseshell-decorated bows.

Mr Hill said: "I have tried to get the Department of Environment to give a clear ruling but to no avail. We would much prefer to work with the traditional materials. But apart from being against the law, it is morally wrong."

Inquiries by *The Times* have shown that the law seems ineffectual.

European notebook

Light begins to show at the end of farm price tunnel



The meeting is dead. Long live the next meeting. That is the essential Brussels motto and it gives the lie to all talk of "crisis summits" and "crucial councils".

Agricultural ministers of the EEC meet today and tomorrow to argue over the farm price support package which will certainly cost the Community more than it can afford. Foreign ministers meet in special session tomorrow, in essence to argue about who should provide the necessary money. Whether they succeed or fail, both sets of ministers will meet again next month.

By now the dust has settled sufficiently after last week's summit to make it possible to see the outline of an agreement at both councils. For all the talk of an imminent Mrs Thatcher and of lack of understanding by her fellow summiters, it is now obvious that everybody has made very real concessions. These went far beyond anything which the specialist ministers concerned would have dared to go.

There remains two huge obstacles before the Community's financial problems can be sorted out. One is the quality of milk Irish cows can be allowed to produce. The other is the way of calculating Britain's payment to the Community.

The Irish milk question can be sorted out by the agriculture ministers. Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister, for all that he walked out of the summit in a sulk when Mrs Thatcher reportedly tore him for wanting a higher milk quota, is ready to issue instructions to accept the sort of deal he had been offered at the time.

This would allow Irish cows to produce five per cent more than last year with a promised review in 12 months time. Britain claims this is an expensive deal, but given the fact that Mr Michael Jopling, the Agriculture Minister, has insisted on a similar deal for Northern Ireland it is blatantly obvious that a bargain can be struck.

The British problem is much more complex but there is no reason why Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, should not be able to make real progress at tomorrow's meeting. For one thing, he understands the dossier far better than Mrs Thatcher; for another, he can now build on the very significant concessions which she made.

When the negotiations began last week, Mrs Thatcher said she wanted a system under which she would pay no more than £300m towards the £1,200m British contribution. By the time the meeting ended she had offered to double the contribution for one year and to pay up to £450m thereafter, provided she could have a permanent system.

The whole deal fell apart, observers say, because of irrational reaction to the way she refused to pay £560m a year inside the system. This apparently infuriated Chancellor Helmut Kohl to "forget" to mention that he was prepared to offer Mrs Thatcher a permanent settlement to follow a five-year package at £540m a year.

On the budget deal, Sir Geoffrey knows that the gap in figures is now so tiny as to be ridiculous. If he can get the system which Mrs Thatcher came so close to being offered, he ought to be able to strike a bargain.

After all the uproar, it now seems that every government urgently wants to settle. Having come so close to a agreement they all feel somewhat foolish in arguing over such a small amount.

For her part, Mrs Thatcher appears to have had her bluff called over withholding payment to the Community. Were she to decide to do this, she now knows she would risk a damaging revolt within her own party.

She is in consequence, pressing for a settlement as quickly as possible, even if this means at a reduced level.

And if both the council this week fail there is no doubt that the Community will organize another meeting.

Ian Murray

Labour lead cut sharply in New South Wales

From Tony Duboulin
Melbourne

The Labour Government in New South Wales was re-elected at Saturday's state election but with a sharply reduced majority. Mr Neville Wran, the Premier, called the snap election three weeks ago, six months ahead of schedule, saying that the repeated opposition allegations of corruption had made state Parliament unworkable.

The swing against Labour was slightly less than 6 per cent and the Government's record majority of 39 looks like being reduced to 17 seats. The final results, which will not be known until later this week, look like being 53 seats for Labour, 23 for the Liberals, 15 for the National Party and three for the Independents.

In his own seat, Mr Wran experienced a swing of 8 per cent against him. However, he put a brave face on the result and described his victory as "the sweetest victory of them all".

Mr Nick Greiner, the state Opposition leader, described



Mr Neville Wran: Brave face.

the vote as "a big kick in the teeth" for the state Government.

Mr Greiner also made it clear yesterday that the Opposition would continue with its allegations of corruption in the state.

The Labour victory in New South Wales was important for the federal Government as it maintains the situation of four state governments controlled by the Labour Party.

Bishops attack Madrid for Basque ambush

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

The Catholic bishops of San Sebastian and Pamplona have condemned the killing by Spanish police of four suspected Basque terrorists, ambushed on Thursday night while landing in a small boat from France. Demonstrations were yesterday held in several Basque towns, including Bilbao.

Hailed in the rest of Spain as a notable success, the action of sharpshooters of an anti-terrorist unit has again strained relations between the Basques and Madrid.

The struggle against terrorism remains the exclusive responsibility of central Government, said Señor Carlos Garañano, the Basque caretaker Chief Minister, has ordered an investigation into the incident.

Deng endorses Japanese trade grumbles

Peking (Reuters) - The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, and the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, yesterday discussed Japan's low level of investment in China.

After two days of talks between Mr Nakasone and Chinese leaders, during which they agreed on most international questions, Mr Deng turned to the issue of Japanese business in China.

According to spokesmen he said: "There still exist some problems in our relations. The Japanese industrialists may have doubts and suspicions over cooperation (with China) and also complaints over the problems of current joint ventures. I think these complaints might have some cause."

The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, flew to Peking yesterday.

Chiang repeats pledge

Taipei (AP) - President Chiang Ching-kuo, who was re-elected leader of the Nationalist Chinese Government on Taiwan last week, yesterday reiterated his determination to reunify China under Nationalist rule.

In his first speech to the National Assembly, the electoral college which elected him to his second six-year term last Wednesday, Mr Chiang said that "to reunify China under the principles of democracy,

nationalism and social welfare is the consensus of all Chinese the world over."

The principles Mr Chiang listed were those advocated by Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Chinese Republic, who died in 1925. They remain the basic guides for the Nationalists, who fled to Taiwan in 1949.

Mr Chiang said that during his first term, there had never been a moment that he was not thinking of the recovery of the mainland.

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NHS spending tripled but still lagging

By Thomson Prentice

The gross cost of the National Health Service for 1984 will reach about £17,000m or £303 a head, and is three times higher in real terms than the cost of the service in 1949, according to official figures published today.

Increases in manpower have been a principal cause of rising expenditure within the health service. In 1951, there were on average 348 nurses for very thousands available beds. By 1982, this has risen to more than 1,100.

The figures are contained in the new edition of the Office of Health Economics' *Compendium of Health Statistics*. They also show that in the past three years, "real health service resources have grown by only 1/4 per cent a year, compared with an annual "real" growth of 4 per cent from the mid-1950s until 1974. As a proportion of the gross national product, the health service now absorbs only 6.2 per cent, compared with 6.3 per cent in 1981.

The statistics also show that Britain's health spending has continued to lag behind other western European countries, even when allowing for different levels of wealth. Denmark and Norway now spend twice as much per person than does Britain.

Scotland's health spending advanced by 33 per cent between 1974/75 and 1981/82, compared with a rise of just 17 per cent for the UK. At £292 a head in 1981/2, Scottish outlay exceeded the averages recorded in English regions such as Oxford and Trent by 51 and 45 per cent respectively.

Nearly a third of the hospital medical staff have been recruited from overseas, a proportion which the Office of Health Economics notes as "indicating the country's considerable and continuing reliance on overseas doctors".

The number of general practitioners has increased by 26 per cent since 1951, with a record total of 30,629 in 1982, compared with about 21,000 in 1951. The highest ratio is in Scotland, where there were six family doctors for every 1,000 people in 1982, a fifth more than in England and Wales.

(OHE Compendium of Health Statistics, Fifth Edition, 1984. (Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY, price £15.00)

1981/82 NHS EXPENDITURE PER HEAD OF POPULATION - £			
	Total NHS	Hospitals*	GPs*
United Kingdom	234	138	15.5
England:			
North	226	133	15.3
West	217	125	14.8
East	215	125	14.8
South	211	114	14.6
East of England	208	115	14.1
North Thames	205	113	14.2
West Thames	204	114	14.2
East Thames	204	114	14.2
South Thames	204	114	14.2
Wessex	204	114	14.2
Oxford	204	114	14.2
S. Western	204	114	14.2
W. Midlands	204	114	14.2
Mersey	204	114	14.2
N. Western	204	114	14.2
Wales	237	137	15.4
Scotland	292	180	17.3
Northern Ireland	292	175	15.8

* Figures relate to net revenue expenditure.

Flight

EEC tests Irish reaction

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The EEC is testing the reaction of Irish farmers to the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by asking them to accept a 10 per cent reduction in their milk production.

Mr. Richard, who is chairman of the Commission, said that the EEC was testing the reaction of Irish farmers to the new CAP by asking them to accept a 10 per cent reduction in their milk production.

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East Germans submit to lure of West

Flight from the Vale of Witlessness

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

They sit patiently at the wooden canteen tables, some still in overcoats, sipping coffee and waiting for the camp bureaucracy to register their unexpected arrival in the West. Bags, suitcases and parcels are piled up in corners, all the worldly possessions they were allowed to bring in and able to bundle up in the one or two days the East German authorities gave them to leave. They talk in subdued voices, striking up tentative friendships with others in the same limbo between joy and anxiety. Families stick together as they ponder the new life in some yet unknown town.

The 60-strong, harassed camp staff do their best to make the newcomers welcome. They hand out pocket-money - DM15 (about £4) to each head of family and DM10 for each additional member - offer tips on employment prospects, help them to contact the relatives who will be the anchors to which they must first cling when cast into West German life.

But there are so many formalities: inspection by the camp doctor, social security registration for entitlement to unemployment benefit, the notorious interview with West German intelligence officers, who attempt to filter out the East German agents slipped in among the throng of emigrants.

And nowadays there are so many emigrants. In a normal winter month, 400 people arrived in the cramped former refugee centre, wedged in a triangle of land between the railway station and a main road. Then, on February 18, without warning, 100 East Germans got off the train at Giessen and since then the greatest influx since the building of the Berlin Wall has not abated. Some 300 people are arriving each day. On March 8 there were more than 500 and among the arrivals last Tuesday was the niece of the East German Prime Minister, with her husband and two children.

Extra beds have hastily been crammed into the bedrooms, volunteers added to the kitchen staff, meals simplified to soup and spaghetti.

The emigrants are mostly young, intellectuals and skilled workers. Some, the privileged, were able to come out in their cars, getting their petrol coupons from the camp to continue to their destinations. Others had to sell everything, banking the money, they could not take or giving it to the families and friends they would probably never see again.

Overwhelmingly, they come from the Dresden area - "the vale of witlessness", as one man put it - where dissatisfaction is greatest and the pressure to emigrate strongest, because,

almost alone, this south-eastern corner of East Germany cannot receive West German television.

Gerhard, a young sculptor, left because he felt professionally stunted, unable to express himself within the political and artistic strictures. He had few regrets and little anxiety about the future. Klaudia, a student waiting on a bench in the sunny courtyard beside him.

She had arrived only half an hour earlier and was still dflined by the nervous strain, the intimidating frontiers formalities, in which her East German travel documents were taken away, her luggage searched and the political door closed on her past life. She wanted to go to Baden-Württemberg to study - anywhere, so long as it was in the south.

Like so many, they did not want to be photographed, though the camp has been overrun by Western television teams and reporters. "We still have relatives over there," another family said.

Heinz and his wife and daughter were less intimidated. "I am the son of an American GI," he said proudly. "My father was an interpreter after the war. I want to find him in the States and see Munich, my birthplace, again."

Their route to Giessen had been more circuitous than most. Family reunion is still the only official basis for emigration from East Germany and they could claim distant relatives only in Austria. It was a long train journey. The wife found the shock of what she saw in Vienna almost too much to bear. "I just wanted to cry: all that meat, those vegetables and the toy shops - it's a paradise for children."

They too were from Dresden and had lived in reasonable comfort. But the spiritual suffocation had told on them.

Dr Hans Zahn, the kindly camp physician, who has worked at Giessen almost from its establishment in 1950, was understanding of the psychological strain, which he often treated, the illnesses that sometimes accompanied arrival. Children, exhausted by what he unfortunately termed the "transports from the East", were able to rest in the camp's clinic.

The adjustment is hard, the challenge daunting, especially for the 1,000 or so political prisoners whose freedom is bought each year by Bonn and for whom Giessen is the first glimpse of liberty after the sudden release from prison cells.

No one knows why so many people have suddenly been allowed to leave, or how many more will be able to join them. For the moment the camp is coping as best it can with the flood.



In search of roots: Heinz and his family wait to move on from the refugees' transit camp at Giessen.

Police fire tear gas at Karachi students

From Hassan Akhtar Islamabad

Police used tear gas in Karachi yesterday to break up demonstrations against the martial law ban on student organizations and university and college unions in Pakistan.

Students staged protest meetings to observe the so-called "Black Day". They shouted anti-regime slogans and attacked police and official vehicles with stones. Outside one college, an effigy of President Zia ul-Haq was reportedly burnt.

There have been protests in a number of cities against the ban on student political activity and dissolution of unions and organizations.

Some universities have remained closed, and occasional outbreaks of violence have damaged university and college property. Three student leaders, including the president of the right-wing Jamiatul Ulama Islam, have been jailed and flogged in Peshawar for disrupting a speech by President Zia.

During the Karachi demonstrations yesterday, police frustrated a student attempt to disturb the security arrangements for Dattuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad, the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister.

General Zia has disbanded student bodies, observers say.

DeLorean plays leading role in Hollywood's media epic

From Ivar Davis Los Angeles

The John DeLorean cocaine conspiracy trial is predictably shaping up as the media event of 1984.

Inside the fifth-floor federal courtroom of Judge Robert Taksag, business drones on long repetitive hours of questioning prospective jurors about what they know of the case (and they know a lot) and have they, despite what they have read in newspapers or seen on nightly television news, formed any opinions about the sensational allegations.

A few days ago, an elderly woman almost started a revolt in the ranks of the bored press corps when she admitted she had not read a newspaper in 10 years. "It's against my religion," she confessed. "My Guru tells me that truth is eternal." She was exalted.

Most of the action takes place in the busy corridors outside the court, or on the grey stone steps in front of the building, where mini-camera crews dog every footstep of Mr DeLorean and his attractive wife, Christine.

All three main television networks have set up permanent headquarters in trailers on the street, manned 24 hours a day for the duration of the trial, which has already taken more than two weeks, may run for another three.

In the early days, it was quite a circus. Hundreds of photographers, television cameras and reporters mobbed the tall, silver-haired Mr DeLorean, dressed impeccably in western-



Mr DeLorean: Mobbed by fans and the press.

style two-piece pin-striped suits, and his smart modes-across wife, hanging on to every word they breathed.

Inside the court there are seats for 44 journalists and 40 spectators. A huge overflow press room has been set up where proceedings are piped live to those who cannot get seats in the court. During recesses, reporters flock around Mr DeLorean or his wife, looking for fresh quotes.

Mr Howard Weitzman, Mr DeLorean's chief lawyer, who has been getting quite testy and even hostile with prospective jurors, accusing some of lying to get picked for the jury, has told his client to keep his mouth shut in public.

Mr DeLorean has a penchant

for chatting away every time a microphone is thrust under his nose. In the street, he said: "If I went to a monastery in the Siberian Alps, I still couldn't get a fair trial."

Nearly 200 potential jurors have been questioned in the quest to find 12 who can render a verdict based on testimony presented at the trial. Many were dismissed after admitting they had watched video tapes of Mr DeLorean's arrest, which were recently aired on television.

Lethargic reporters have started interviewing each other for fresh angles to the story. Artists and fashion writers are dropping in to sketch the principals and comment about Cristina's wardrobe. "I'd love to get her castoffs," the Associated Press correspondent, Linda Deutsch, said. "She never wears the same outfit twice."

Joining the press from around the world are the fans. It is not uncommon to spot Mr DeLorean posing for a quick snap with a couple of excited women from Detroit, or signing autographs during lulls and recesses. "It's a real celebrity atmosphere," Linda Deutsch says. "DeLorean and his wife are like movie stars."

Red Alert

Singapore (AFP) - The oilwell firefighter, Mr Red Adair, has arrived in Indonesia with a team of experts to tackle a fire on board the drill barge Mission Viking, off Cilacap in the Java Sea.

EEC team tests Irish reaction

From Ian Murray Brussels

The essential importance of satisfying Irish demands for higher milk production was recognised on Saturday when M Michel Rocard, the French Agriculture Minister, led a top level team from the EEC to Dublin.

M Rocard, who is currently chairman of the Community's agriculture council, was seeing how far Ireland was prepared to go at the two-day meeting which opens in Brussels today towards reaching agreement.

With him on the trip were Mr Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, and Mr Claud Villain, the EEC civil servant in charge of agricultural policy. During last week's summit in Brussels Dr Garret FitzGerald the Irish Prime Minister, walked out after Mrs Margaret Thatcher said she could not support a compromise proposal allowing Ireland partial exemption from new tough controls of EEC milk production.

Dr FitzGerald was said by officials to have been particularly upset since he had been prepared reluctantly to accept the compromise, which represented a considerable sacrifice by Ireland.

M Rocard is expected to put that same compromise on the table in Brussels today.

Mystery of men who stole £15m

From Peter Nichols Rome

Investigators are still trying to decide whether the biggest robbery so far known in Italy was the work of terrorists.

Early on Saturday a group of four young people entered the deposit of Brink's Securemark and made off with 35,000 lire (£15m) largely in banknotes of small denominations.

They had previously taken hostage the family of an employee of the company and forced him to take two of them inside the building in his car.

Once past the gate they overpowered the security guards and turned off the alarms before beginning their three hours' work of emptying the safe deposits.

They left behind photocopies of documents issued by the Red Brigades terrorist movement, and took photographs of the man whose family they had taken hostage against an improvised Red Brigades symbol painted on cardboard.

There is considerable doubt that the robbery was in fact carried out by terrorists; a stronger belief is that professional criminals tried to cover their tracks by making the left-wing terrorists appear responsible.

Mota Pinto victory assures Lisbon

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Senhor Carlos Mota Pinto, the Social Democrat Deputy Prime Minister, emerged victorious from his party's congress in the city of Braga over the weekend. His victory assured the continuity of the coalition Government of Socialists and Social Democrats headed by Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, although a Cabinet reshuffle can be expected.

Senhor Mota Pinto, who also holds the post of Minister of Defence had adopted an "all or nothing" stance at the congress, threatening to leave the Government and the leadership of his party if his motion were not adopted by a substantial majority.

One of his demands was the amendment of the party's statutes so that the party's secretary general is elected as one of a list of candidates rather than as a single candidate in party elections. He also insisted on the postponement of the choice of a party candidate for the presidential election in 1985.

He was strongly opposed in his demands by the secretary general of the party, Senhor Antonio Capucho, and by the Social Democratic President of the Azores, Senhor Mota Amaral who has declared himself presidential candidate against Dr Soares if he stands again. When the coalition was formed, Dr Soares had expected the support of the Social Democrats in 1985.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. DOVER IS BRITAIN'S BUSIEST PORT True ☐ False ☐

2. HEATHROW, GATWICK, STANSTED DON'T COST THE BRITISH TAXPAYER A PENNY True ☐ False ☐

3. HEATHROW HANDLES MORE INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS THAN ANY OTHER AIRPORT True ☐ False ☐

4. LOS ANGELES IS THE WORLD'S BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL HELIPORT True ☐ False ☐

5. HEATHROW IS THIS COUNTRY'S LARGEST RETAILER OF PERFUME. True ☐ False ☐

6. THE WORLD'S 5TH BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS GATWICK. True ☐ False ☐

7. ALL NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES RUN AT THE PUBLIC'S EXPENSE. True ☐ False ☐

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Then check the answers at the bottom of the page.

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But we'll be flabbergasted if you answer all seven correctly.

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In fact, we don't cost you a penny

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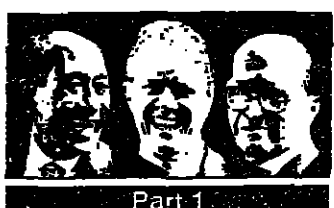


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Israel-Egypt pact

Sour aftermath of treaty which ended 30 years of conflict

Five years ago today President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, then the Israeli Prime Minister, signed the treaty which ended 30 years of war between their countries. In the first of two articles Christopher Walker examines the state of the peace.



Part 1

Israel and Egypt may not have exchanged a shot in anger for 10 years, planes may now fly regularly between Cairo and Tel Aviv - which are also linked by telephone and coach - but today's anniversary will not be marked by any celebrations among members of Mr Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Government. As the Prime Minister (one of the original opponents of the Camp David accords) displayed in a recent angry speech to the Knesset, Israel is bitterly disappointed at what it sees as Egypt's blatant failure to fulfil its obligations, particularly in regard to normalization and the ill-fated talks on Palestinian autonomy which have been stalled for two years and appear unlikely ever to resume.

Perfect cover to stall US

By way of explanation, a senior Israeli official told *The Times* that of nearly 100 agreements signed with Egypt in the heady days of the peace, only a handful were still operative. He said that the last meeting of the joint consultative committees took place 12 months ago and the rather pathetic mainstay of Israel's rapidly-dwindling trade with Egypt was now the weekly export of 50,000 day-old chicks (compared with 500,000 a week in 1982).

The official disclosed that while 2,000 Israeli tourists a month were crossing into Egypt, the number of tourists from Egypt was "virtually nil". Subsequent inquiries showed that Egyptian officials are willing to give permits only to Egyptian businessmen or Egyptian Jews and that ordinary Egyptians feel they will suffer government displeasure if they apply for a visa.

Mr Shamir said in his speech: "We have explained and continue to explain that the conduct of the Egyptian Government presents us with a basic, very serious question: Are Arab countries ready for peace, and are their leaders capable of leading their peoples towards

the fulfilment of peace with Israel?" He was rehearsing an argument expected to become more familiar in the coming months.

"And most important: the conduct of the Egyptian Government damages the credibility of the agreements and commitments it has undertaken in the past, and the credibility of agreements and commitments it or any other government in the region may seek to undertake in the future."

Already, the sharpness of Mr Shamir's condemnation has been interpreted by Israeli doves as the development of perfect cover to stall any future US attempt to try to persuade Israel to enter talks with Jordan over the future of the occupied West Bank. Israelis believe such moves may come next year after the US presidential elections.

Lebanon held up as an example

What some commentators have termed Israel's "paranoia" over the "cold peace" with Egypt has been heightened by the radical Arab pressure now being put upon President Mubarak to follow Lebanon's recent example and abrogate the Camp David treaty just as President Gemayel of Lebanon did with the 1983 agreement made with Israel.

"We know the type of pressure the Egyptians are under. They are being told that if a weak country like Lebanon can take such a stand, why cannot a much stronger Arab government like Egypt follow suit?" the Jerusalem official explained. "But we are not completely pessimistic. We know that it is in Egypt's basic national interest to maintain the treaty."

The predictable failure of normalization to reach Israeli expectations was signalled during the fraught negotiations which took place at Camp David, as the former US President, Mr Jimmy Carter revealed recently when he said that President Sadat had agreed only "with great difficulty" to any progress on that score. While acknowledging the Egyptian dilemma of trying to balance peace with Israel with a gradual return to the Arab fold, the Israelis argue that the 18 months' absence of the ambassador to Israel (indefinitely withdrawn after the West Beirut massacre) is in direct contravention of one of the key letters attached to the treaty.

Among the official gloom and concern that relations might slip into a "deep frozen" state in which the whole treaty may come under risk, it is acknowledged that despite its manifold shortcomings, the peace has survived three traumatic shocks: the final withdrawal from Sinai, the murder of President Sadat and the Lebanon war.

"The trouble is that this was our first treaty with an Arab country," the Israeli official explained. "It therefore lacks any kind of perspective. We have no real way of foreseeing the future."

Tomorrow: The view from Cairo

THE YEARS OF PEACE

- Nov. 1977: Sadat visits Jerusalem; promises "no more war".
- Sept. 1978: Camp David accords; one "framework" provides for peace in the Middle East, including five-year autonomy for West Bank and Gaza, to be agreed between Egypt, Israel and Jordan; another for the conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Jordan says it is not bound by either.
- March 1979: Peace treaty signed in Washington, three months later. April: Instruments of ratification exchanged. State of war officially ends. May: Talks begin between Israel and Egypt on Palestinian autonomy.
- Jan. 1980: Land border opened to civilian traffic. Diplomatic relations established.
- Feb: Exchange of ambassadors.
- May: Egypt suspends autonomy talks, blaming Israel's "Negative" attitude. Deadline passes without agreement.
- Dec: Overland trade begins.
- Oct. 1981: Sadat assassinated.
- Apr. 1982: Israel completes withdrawal from Sinai.
- Sept: Egypt recalls ambassador after Beirut massacre.
- Dec. 1983: Arafat visit to Cairo.

Modern-day Jason on trail of the Golden Fleece

From Mario Modiano Spetses, Greece

No oxen were sacrificed here and no libations were poured to Apollo at Saturday's cheerful launching of the "Argo". But the Greek Orthodox priest from the Church of St Nicholas who intoned his special blessing for new ships, seemed convinced that his canticles and holy water were just as effective.

The modern Argo is a replica of a Bronze Age galley with 20 oars and sail, which Mr Timothy Severin, the British explorer of old myths, intends to sail for 1,500 miles to Soviet Georgia and back.

He is investigating the

ancient legend of the original Argo which took Jason and the Argonauts from Iollos, in central Greece, to Colchis, in the Black Sea, in search of the Golden Fleece.

It is not Mr Severin's first expedition. In 1977 he showed how it was possible for St Brendan, the Irish monk, to have discovered North America in a skinboat, 1,000 years before Columbus. Four later he explored the legend of Sinbad the sailor on board an eighth century Arab merchant ship.

This time, like Jason, he had his ship built of pine, if not by Argos, by Vasili Delimitros, at 53 a master shipwright of Spetses.

"Not a single nail was used,"

the boat builder said. "The planks were locked together with the ancient mortice and tenon technique, using wooden pegs. For the launch, the hull was coated with pitch mixed with tree resin, and the whole concoction boiled with mutton fat."

Thanks to this formula, as Mr Delimitros released the ropes, the wide-beamed, ram-bowed Argo slid gently into the blue waters, and hundreds of islanders and guests who had gathered in the old harbour of this small island, cheered and applauded as the boat steadied itself afloat. It was a perfect launch.

Jason, of course, had managed to man his 50-oar Argo with the elite of heroes of his time, including Hercules. In this case, the Argo is to be crewed by a permanent international crew of 12 who sailed with Mr Severin in other voyages, and volunteers from the countries Argo is visiting - Greece, Turkey and the Soviet Union.

If the Argonauts had Orpheus himself to entertain them with his lyre, the modern seafarers will have the services of a doctor, a photographer, and a cook.

Mr Severin hopes to sail from the port of Volos (near Iollos) in May, hugging the coast, and four months later, by way of the straits, to reach the River Rhodan in the Black Sea

where archaeologists have identified the capital of the kingdom of Colchis. Unlike Jason, however, who was treated with hostility by the King of Colchis, the modern Argonauts, their intentions certainly more honourable, have been assured an excellent reception at destination by the Soviet authorities. Soviet television, in fact, has taken them under its wing.

Mr Severin said: "This is a serious piece of academic research. What we want to do is to establish the factual basis for the legendary voyage of Jason. The scholars will then be able to judge it, once the evidence is there in reality, not in books."

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Surprise visit to Sudan by Mubarak

Khartoum (AFP, Reuters) - President Mubarak of Egypt made a brief surprise visit to Sudan yesterday to reaffirm his country's full support for its Southern neighbour "on all occasions" and to discuss joint air defence.

His unexpected arrival here coincided with a report from Cairo that the United States had put two heavy transport aircraft at Egypt's disposal to aid anti-aircraft defences to Sudan in the wake of the March 16 air raid on Omdurman.

Sudan and Egypt linked by a defence pact have both blamed Libya for the raid, and Mr Mubarak said before returning home that neither country would stand alone in a difficult time. Both had a "common cause, a common destiny and common security interests".

Paper closed in Paraguay

Sao Paulo - Paraguay's largest newspaper, *ABC Color*, has been closed for an indefinite period, accused of subverting public order after publishing an interview with an opponent of President Stroessner, who has been in power for 30 years (writes Patrick Knight).

Ghana soldiers executed

Abidjan (Reuters) - Three dissident soldiers involved in a 1983 coup attempt were executed by firing squad in Ghana after being captured in clashes with security forces, Accra radio reported.

29 Marines die

Seoul (AP) - A US spokesman said yesterday that all 18 American and 11 South Korean Marines on a US Marine Corps helicopter were killed when it crashed in the rainforest mountains near the port of Pohang on Saturday during night manoeuvres.

Reagan's choice

Washington - President Reagan announced that he would nominate Mr Michael Armistead, at present Ambassador to the Philippines, to succeed Mr Lawrence Eagleburger as Undersecretary of State for political affairs.

Transfer birth

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A second baby has been born by the ovum transfer method, in which a fertile woman is inseminated and the ovum later transferred to an infertile wife, doctors announced here.

Slave trade

Delhi (AP) - More than 10,000 children from Uttar Pradesh have been exported and sold as slaves, bonded labourers or prostitutes for 1,000 to 2,000 rupees (£70 to £140) each, *The Times of India* reported.

Race disaster

Budapest (Reuters) - Four spectators were killed and 10 seriously hurt when a car in a road race careered off a bend in hills near Budapest. The race was stopped at once.

Rock on

Melbourne - Val Doonican and a BBC crew have been given permission by the Aboriginal owners of Ayers Rock to tape a sequence there, but the landmark will be used only as a backdrop. The Aboriginals initially refused permission because they said it would be culturally inappropriate.

Royal visit to ancient city of Zimbabwe

From Michael Hornsby Masvingo, Zimbabwe

The Prince of Wales, who four years ago formally handed Zimbabwe over to its new black rulers, visited the famous stone ruins near here yesterday which, on Independence, gave their name to the country known in the days of white rule as Rhodesia.

Prince Charles was on the second day of a three-day visit to Zimbabwe, the third stop on a four-nation tour of eastern and southern Africa in his capacity as a director of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

He dined with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, and his wife last night, and will fly on to Botswana today. The first two stops on his tour were Tanzania and Zambia.

Accompanied by Mr Witness Magwende, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, and a large retinue of officials, security men and journalists, Prince Charles climbed a narrow, winding stone-flagged path to the top of the 250 ft hill that dominates the Great Zimbabwe complex.

The hill, crowned with the remains of great granite walls and towers, may once have been a royal residence and later the home of a spirit medium. The names Zimbabwe comes from a Shona phrase meaning "houses of stone".

As a former student of archaeology at Cambridge, the Prince showed a lively interest which was apparently not dampened by a sudden heavy downpour. He jokingly reminded the Foreign Minister that he had been chided the previous evening for not bringing any rain to drought-racked Zimbabwe.

The building probably house



Scientific approach: The Prince of Wales examining a charcoal burning stove with Dr Peter Morgan, Zimbabwe's Scientist of the Year.

the dwelling of the king, his mother, and senior wives during the later period of the loose-knit tribal empire of which Great Zimbabwe is believed to have been the imperial city.

The building of the city probably began about 1200 AD and continued until the empire disintegrated in the fifteenth century for reasons that are still not clear.

During the pre-independence period, white officials refused to accept, even as a

hypothesis, that such intricate masonry could have been achieved by the ancestors of the present Shona-speaking peoples of Zimbabwe. They suggested, instead, that it was the work of Arab or Phoenician settlers.

No serious scholar now doubts, however, that the ruins are of African origin. They have become a powerful symbol of nationalism, proving that Zimbabwe has a past worth remembering which goes back well beyond the arrival of white men just over 90 years ago.

Russia and Cuba divided on Central America strategy

From Martha Honey San José, Costa Rica

A recent split within Costa Rica's tiny Communist Party reflects a much more significant divergence of strategy between Cuba and the Soviet Union in the face of US actions in Europe and Latin America.

A bitter leadership struggle within Costa Rica's 5,000-member popular Vanguard Party (PVP), which is Central America's oldest Communist Party, has led to the replacement of the aging moderate, Cuban-backed general secretary, Señor Manuel Mora, by the more militant Señor Humberto Vargas who, informed sources say, has the support of the Soviet Union.

Soviet support for the militant faction of the PVP, which is said to serve as a bellwether of Soviet intentions in the region, is one of several indications that Moscow seeks to fan the flames in Central America at a time when Havana is actively seeking rapprochement with Washington.

According to a political analyst and former party member, Dr Rodolfo Cerdas, this unresolved internal struggle represents "a profound ideological division which has implications for Soviet and Cuban policies throughout the region."

Until the split late last year, both Havana and Moscow supported the PVP which, under Señor Mora, held that revolution was not possible in Costa Rica, the region's most democratic and politically stable country.

Historically the Moscow-backed Communist parties in Latin America and the Caribbean have been small, orthodox workers' parties which sup-

ported gradual reform rather than revolution. Only late in the day did the Communist Parties in Nicaragua and El Salvador endorse armed struggle.

President Fidel Castro of Cuba, on the other hand, has traditionally lent support to guerrilla movements in the region. Over the past year, however, the Soviet and Cuban positions apparently have to some extent been reversed.

Political writers and activists here believe that the Soviet Union has since the deployment of US missiles in Europe last year, become less interested in negotiations and more willing to see the Reagan Administration drawn into unwinnable Vietnam-type conflict in Central America.

According to Dr Cerdas, the Russians "want Reagan to waste money and do stupid things in Central America, so much so that opinion will turn against him in the United States and Europe and endanger further missile deployment."

In contrast, Cuba, deeply frightened by the US invasion of Grenada, has intensified its efforts to end the conflicts in El

Salvador and Nicaragua and to normalize its own relations with the United States.

Cuba showed restraint in its response to the Grenada invasion and has since withdrawn an estimated 1,000 advisers from Nicaragua. It has also put pressure on the Salvadorean left to negotiate an end to the civil war.

An official of the Salvadorean left-wing coalition, the FMLN-FDR, explained that, after the party issued a peace proposal last month, the Cubans "told us it was not flexible enough, and they had specific suggestions" for making it more acceptable to the Americans. He said he knows of no similar Soviet pressure.

The former Costa Rican Information Minister, Dr Luis Burstin, says that in early 1982 he was asked by Señor Mora to transmit negotiating proposals from Havana to Washington. Since then he has delivered to his contacts in the Reagan Administration several written and oral proposals.

Dr Burstin says that, just after the Grenada invasion, Señor Mora gave him a very interesting new document which was full "of proposals, which he delivered in early December to Dr Henry Kissinger, went further than its predecessors in recognizing the vital US security interests in the Caribbean and Central America."

It stated that the Soviet Union was not interested in establishing military bases in the region, called for the opening of diplomatic and commercial relations between the United States and Cuba, and indicated Cuban willingness to stop support for guerrilla movements and left-wing governments in the region.



President Castro: Urged 'rebels' to be flexible.

Rally endangers Craxi resolve

From Peter Nichols Rome

The Italian Parliament will today begin to consider the Government's controversial anti-inflation decree in the wake of the massive Communist demonstration in Rome on Saturday against the measure.

The Communists say there were more than a million demonstrators in the four processions. Whatever the total, the display of organized strength was impressive, disciplined and peaceful.

The Government's decree on labour costs is part of a drive

against inflation and was approved late on Friday night in the Senate after Senator Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Prime Minister, had decided to make the issue a question of confidence.

Communist MPs, nevertheless, managed to fend off a final vote for two days by astute exploitation of rules of procedure. And after the success of the demonstration on Saturday, they have pledged to oppose the decree in Parliament with the same determination as in the Senate.

There are also greater possi-

bilities for the opposition to block proceedings in Parliament. Whatever the fate of the decree, the Communists have demonstrated that they are again a force to be reckoned with. They certainly made every effort to underline the historic importance of the event.

All famous film directors with Communist sympathies, including the Taviani brothers, Ettore Scola, and Ugo Greganell, were mobilized to film the procession with the aim of having a documentary ready for May Day.

Saudi gold blamed for Afghan split

By Hazhir Teimourian

A severe crisis has engulfed the fundamentalist alliance of seven Afghan guerrilla movements whose leaders are normally based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The problem arose last month when the Alliance's chairman, Professor Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, took advantage of the absence from Peshawar of three most influential members of the supreme council of the alliance to demote them.

They were Professor Borhanuddin Rabbani of the Jamiat-e-Islami party, who had been sent to Morocco as representative of the Afghan resistance at the Islamic Conference; Moula Yunis Khalis, leader of one faction of the Hezb-e-Islami party; and Mr Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami's other faction.

Professor Sayyaf replaced the three with his own men, and won over Mr Hekmatyar's second-in-command, Mr Qazi Amin, to his side.

The three demoted leaders, who retain the allegiance of the most effective guerrilla organizations inside Afghanistan, immediately proclaimed that they would not accept the situation and let it be known privately that they believed their removal to have been the culmination of a plan by unnamed Saudi Arabian princes to convert the bulk of Afghan-

istans' Muslims for the Hanafi branch of Sunni Islam to the Wahabi branch, the sect of the Saudi ruling family.

Yesterday in Peshawar Pro-

fessor Sayyaf vehemently rejected the allegations and accused the BBC's External Services which first broadcast news of the rift, of plotting to weaken Islam in Afghanistan.

Speculation also became rife among exiled Afghans that the dismissed leaders might join the moderate grouping of guerrilla organizations, who have committed themselves to seeking a government of national unity under former King Zahir Shah, in exile in Rome, in return for an orderly withdrawal.

Professor Rabbani and Moula Khalis have dismissed the speculation as baseless, with Mr Khalis saying that the idea of the former King acting as a unifying figure was promoted by the Russians.

It is not known what enables Professor Sayyaf to take such bold action against his more powerful rivals. He is among the last influential leaders among guerrilla commanders inside Afghanistan, but he is known to receive the largest amount of Arab money.

He has offered large amounts of money to such important commanders as Ahmad Shah Massud in the Panjshir valley if they would join him, but his offers have been refused.

The Saudi Arabian Government observes a strict neutrality between the moderate and fundamentalist Afghan groups, with King Fahd himself said to favour the moderates. But many of its donations are sent to Pakistan through proxies who are believed to favour the fundamentalists.

Baden-Württemberg elections

Resounding victory for Kohl in south-west

From Michael Binyon Bonn

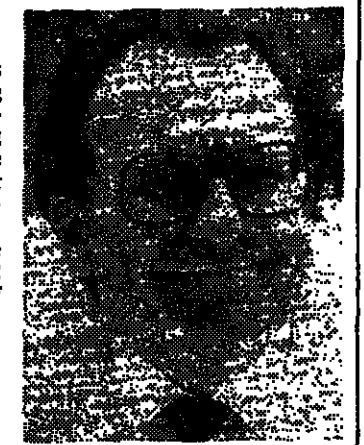
The Christian Democrats yesterday won a resounding victory in the prosperous south-west of Germany, maintaining the absolute majority in the Baden-Württemberg parliament which they have held since 1972.

Provisional results of the Land election gave the CDU 52 per cent of the vote, a drop of only 1.4 per cent compared with 1980. The Social Democrats had exactly the same percentage at 32.5, the Free Democrats won 6.9 per cent, and the Greens did surprisingly well gaining 8 per cent of the vote.

The election was the first test of popularity for Chancellor Kohl's Government since the recent scandals involving Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Minister of Economics who is accused of corruption, and Herr Manfred Weber, the Defence Minister whose reputation was severely damaged by the Kiessling affair.

Mindful of recent losses by the Christian Social Union in local elections in Neighbouring Bavaria, Chancellor Kohl campaigned hard in Baden-Württemberg, the country's third largest state. But he was confident his troubles in Bonn had little impact on the 6,540,000 voters, and that the formidable reputation and popularity of Herr Lothar Späth, aged 46, the State Minister for the past six years, would ensure his party's continued absolute majority over the Social Democrats, the Free Democrats and the Greens.

At the last election in 1980 the CDU obtained 53.4 per cent of the vote, the SPD 32.5, the



Herr Späth: Formidable reputation.

FDP 8.3 the Greens 5.3 per cent - just enough to win seats for the first time in the 120 seat parliament in Stuttgart.

The Free Democrats, who traditionally have their stronghold in the south-west, were eager to enter into coalition with the CDU, but Herr Späth made it clear during the campaign he was happy to continue alone.

The Greens, who have been racked by internal power struggles in recent months, consolidated their position, gaining 2.7 per cent on the 1980 result when they first entered the state parliament.

Two national issues that have dominated Chancellor Kohl's Government - the deployment of Nato missiles and the state of the economy - had little impact in Baden-Württemberg. As the boom area of Germany it has been less affected than most by unemployment and the recession.

Ozal tipped to pass test of legitimacy

From Rasit Gurdilek Ankara

Some 20 million Turks cast their votes yesterday to elect mayors and other local administrators. The contest, which looked like a two-horse race, was a test of legitimacy for Mr Turgut Ozal, the conservative Prime Minister, which he was expected to pass.

As his ruling Motherland Party was swept to power on a ticket of economic liberalism in November's general elections, restricted to only three parties by the former military regime, the participation this time of the three rivals excluded then gave yesterday's poll crucial importance.

The latter had been claiming widespread support with the help of hardy-concealed links to the former pre-coup parties.

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Salvadoreans go to polls in mood of doubt and fear

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The people of El Salvador went to the polls yesterday to vote in presidential elections, the first in seven troubled years, in a climate of confusion, scepticism and fear.

Fear — as in the elections for a constituent assembly in 1982 — because intimidation, especially by the extreme right, remains ever present, and the civil war still rages in the background.

The guerrillas sabotaged San Salvador's main electricity plant at 8.30 pm on Saturday, plunging the entire nation into a symbolic, eerie blackness the

denial candidate must have claimed more than 50 per cent of the vote. With eight candidates competing, it is thought to be unlikely that either of the two front runners, the Christian Democrat, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, or Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), will come out the clear winner.

A run-off between the two therefore appears likely, probably in early May.

The expected confusion yesterday arose in part from the electoral authorities' inability to grapple with the problem of voting procedure for some 400,000 refugees inside the country. A further problem has been an electoral register known to be full not only of dead Salvadorans but also of duplicated names.

A distraught American official closely involved with organizing the elections conceded to reporters on Saturday that he expected between 10 and 12 per cent of eligible voters not to cast their vote simply because of the chaos in the mechanics of the operation.

The most serious obstacle to the Salvadoran custom of double-balling yesterday was the insistence by polling authorities that all voters dip a finger in a silver nitrate-based, allegedly indelible ink after casting their vote. A bizarre footnote to the electoral rules says that: "Those voters without hands must stain another visible part of the body" with the ink.

Abstentions were expected to be few as voting is legally obligatory in El Salvador. But the guerrillas said they would not allow voting to take place in areas they control.

One of the two British observers in El Salvador for the elections said last week he was baffled as to how intimidation could decide which way a person would vote if the ballot is secret.

But, as union leaders and local social scientists have explained, a substantial number of the 2.5 million voting population in a country with 50 per cent adult literacy, has been conditioned by years of fear into believing that the men with the guns in their towns and villages are all-knowing, all-seeing beings, who not only decide whether a person must live or die but can also match a secret ballot to the identity of the person who put the cross on it.

night before the elections. Power had not been restored yesterday morning.

Confusion, because the authorities running the elections are hampered by the complexities of imported, US-made mechanism produced for this year's polls.

Scepticism, because, again and again, Salvadoreans you meet up and down the country will echo, usually unconsciously, the guerrilla slogan: "The elections are not the solution" to the country's problems.

What is more, the results of yesterday's elections may very well prove inconclusive. According to the Salvadoran constitution, the winning presi-

ANC houses searched in Mozambique

Maputo (AFP) — Mozambican police and security officials searched houses of members of the African National Congress (ANC) in Maputo amid reports that the joint Mozambican-South African security commission is to meet here today, it was learnt yesterday.

Security officials, accompanied by armed police, arrived unannounced at houses throughout Maputo and neighbouring Matola, beginning at about noon on Saturday. They said they were looking for weapons and other war material.

ANC sources said the searches were thorough, but were generally carried out with courtesy and politeness. It is not known whether any weapons were found.

The sources said at least four people were taken into custody, three because of problems with identity papers.

Soviet pipeline explodes in West Germany

Erlangen, West Germany (AP) — A leg of the pipeline carrying gas to Western Europe from the Soviet Union exploded in flames early yesterday in a field near Erlangen, just north of Nuremberg, causing damage costing at least a million marks (£260,000).

The flames from the explosion shot 600 ft into the air and consumed several hundred trees in a local forest, police said.

The fire also burnt several machine storage buildings in the forest, but no one was injured. Gas distribution was not seriously disrupted.

However, the fire's heat was so intense that firemen could not get near the pipeline until the gas was shut off and the blaze began to die down.

Another line which runs just a few yards away from the damaged line and carries Soviet gas to France was not affected.

Sri Lankan opposition fears press clampdown

From Donavan Moldrich, Colombo

The Sri Lankan Minister of Justice, Dr Nissanka Wijeratne, confirmed over the weekend that the Government would bring in legislation to prevent the use of innuendo and pseudonyms in newspapers. Opposition papers said such legislation would muzzle the press.

Addressing the Law Students Union on Saturday, Dr Wijeratne said: "There is no intention by the Government to close down any press, but crude journalism in the form of innuendo must be prevented. Petty-minded people in little places are peddling degrading service matter to men and women of our society."

"Why cannot they, like the British press, be bold enough to write under their own names and also name the persons concerned without resorting to innuendo? To rectify these errors, once and for all, new laws will have to be introduced."

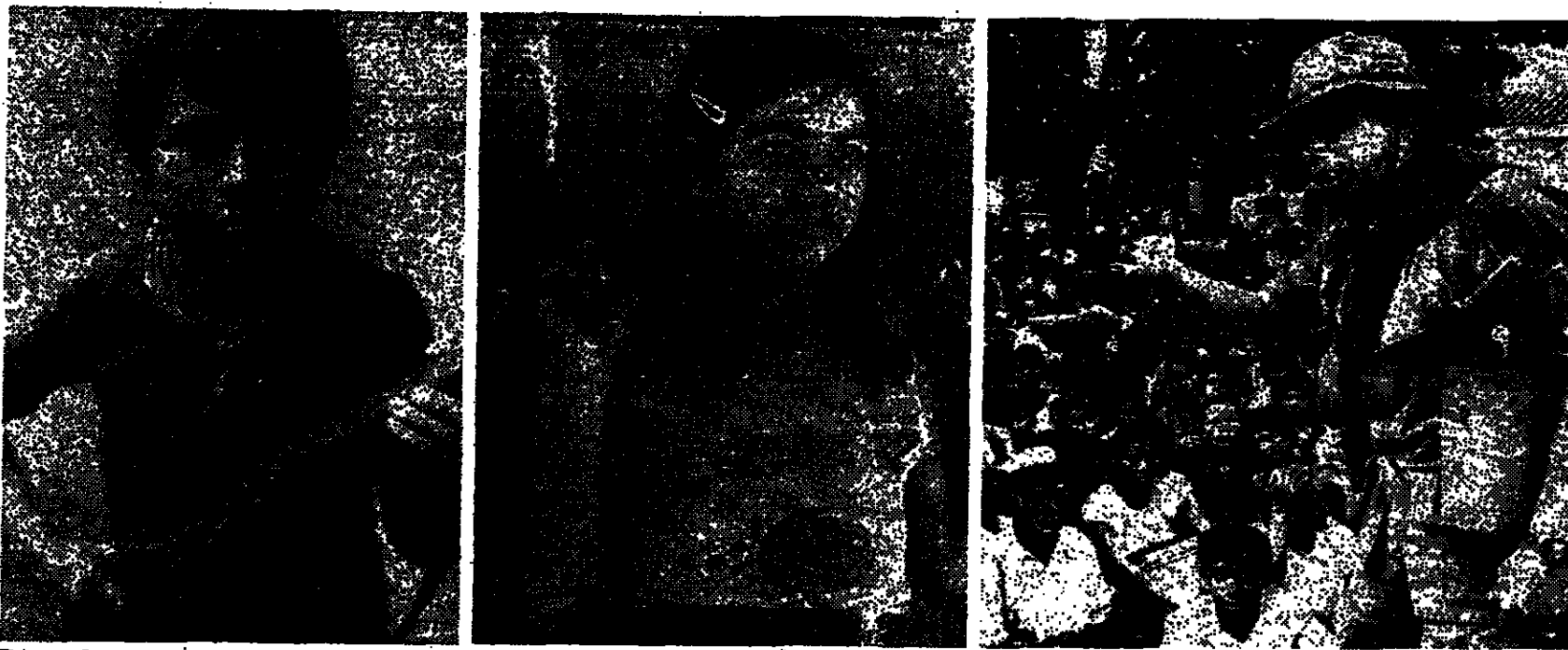
Independent newspapers have said that such laws would cause the extermination of the free press in Sri Lanka. A *Weekend*, a Sunday English-language paper, said the proposed curbs, on the pretext of preventing

innuendo, should be viewed with alarm. "It is a pity that certain politicians have become uneasy about media exposures of shortcomings and pitfalls they have chosen to leap into of their own volition."

The *Island*, an English daily, in an editorial entitled "Watchdogs and Lapdogs", said: "It is an irony that the prosecuting of journalists has increased under the present Government which was so vociferous in its denunciation of the previous regime and its press laws."

The editorial said the purpose of the proposed laws was to prevent anything which might produce "red faces in high places". Talk of "public interest" was a fig leaf for machinations against the free press.

Earlier, the state-controlled *Ceylon Daily News*, after announcing that the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of State would look into the question of the use of innuendo in newspapers, said that the laws of libel and defamation were also likely to be tightened "to ensure that the media does not indulge in irresponsible attacks that are not in the public interest". In an editorial, the *Daily News* said: "Under President Jayewardene, the newspapers have generally been boldly outspoken."



Faces of war: Young guerrillas with old weapons doing guard duty in a "liberated zone" of rural El Salvador. In the eastern town of Chinameca, the regional Army commander, Colonel Monterrosa, tries to persuade people they are safe to vote.

Pinochet declares emergency to stifle protest

From Florencia Varas Santiago

The Chilean Government has declared a nationwide state of emergency in anticipation of the opposition's call for a national day of protest tomorrow.

The measure, which is intended to "protect Chilean lives and property" is equivalent to a state of siege and enables the Government to take extreme measures to control the population (the state of emergency, in force since September 11, 1973, was lifted last August).

Attacks on towers carrying

high tension electric cable blocked out several provinces last Friday as a signal of what promises to be a violent day.

The opposition to President Pinochet's regime has renewed its call for his resignation with the resumption of the days of protest.

Like last year's strategy, the instructions for the protest are to keep schoolchildren home, to boycott stores and government offices and to organize peaceful political demonstrations in universities, factories, and in the slum areas.

For General Gustavo Leigh, the former Air Force Commander, 1984 will be hard year of definitions for the opposition and for the Government.

"Caught between the choice of shortening the timetable for democratization or toughening up", General Leigh said, "the Government has decided to take a harder stance by increasing its power and the control it exercises over the population to an even greater degree."

"Proof of this is President Pinochet's recent announcement to reestablish the state of

emergency, and his intention to approve the 'law against terrorism' which legalizes certain practices now in force, such as opening private correspondence, tapping telephones, holding suspects in places other than jails and submitting terrorists to military courts ... terrorists being anyone who opposes the Government."

"The situation in Chile is like living on two different planets at the same time. On the one hand, the Government thinks that everything is fine. ... Today we're fine, tomorrow

we're better. The President wants to stay in power until 1989 and maybe even seek reelection. On the other hand, the Opposition is demanding democracy now, calling for Pinochet's resignation and claiming that Chile has never been in such a bad state."

Caught between these two Chiles, with no dialogue to bridge the gap, each side is preparing its weapons. The Opposition prepares its protest while the Government puts the final touches on its legislation against terrorism.

Walesa trip cancelled because of harassment

From Our Correspondent Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Solidarity union, complaining that his Gdansk apartment was under "police siege", said that fear of police harassment forced him to cancel his weekend plans to visit Czestochowa's Jasna Gora monastery, the home of the Black Madonna icon.

Mr Walesa was to have been named an honorary monk of the monastery's Pauline order for his services to the Church on Saturday evening, but he said he was under pressure not to make the 250-mile trip because the authorities feared political demonstrations might occur.

A spokesman for the Walesa household said three police cars were parked outside the flat. "The Pauline monks said that Mr Walesa was being admitted to the ancient confraternity — whose select membership includes the Polish Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp for his devotion to the Black Madonna rather than his activities as Solidarity leader. The honour was also being conferred on Mr Walesa's wife, Danuta, and his spiritual adviser, Father Henryk Jankowski."

Father Jankowski travelled to Czestochowa over the weekend with several hundred workers from the Lenin shipyard. The authorities were apparently concerned that the Walesa ceremony would coincide with the shipyard workers' pilgrimage.

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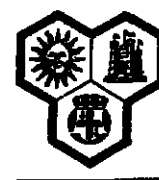
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Male	Female								
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21	21	2,129	2,260	37	4,196	5,491	6,285	241	10,991
22	22	2,138	2,269	36	4,185	5,489	6,282	241	10,979
23	23	2,147	2,278	36	4,185	5,487	6,279	241	10,968
24	24	2,156	2,287	35	4,174	5,485	6,276	241	10,957
25	25	2,165	2,296	35	4,163	5,482	6,273	241	10,946
26	26	2,174	2,305	34	4,152	5,479	6,269	241	10,935
27	27	2,183	2,314	33	4,141	5,476	6,266	241	10,924
28	28	2,192	2,323	33	4,130	5,472	6,262	241	10,913
29	29	2,201	2,332	32	4,119	5,468	6,258	241	10,902
30	30	2,210	2,341	32	4,108	5,465	6,254	241	10,891
31	31	2,219	2,350	31	4,097	5,461	6,250	241	10,880
32	32	2,228	2,359	31	4,086	5,457	6,246	241	10,869
33	33	2,237	2,368	30	4,075	5,453	6,242	241	10,858
34	34	2,246	2,377	30	4,064	5,449	6,238	241	10,847
35	35	2,255	2,386	29	4,053	5,445	6,234	241	10,836
36	36	2,264	2,395	29	4,042	5,441	6,230	241	10,825
37	37	2,273	2,404	28	4,031	5,437	6,226	241	10,814
38	38	2,282	2,413	28	4,020	5,433	6,222	241	10,803
39	39	2,291	2,422	27	4,009	5,429	6,218	241	10,792
40	40	2,300	2,431	27	4,000	5,425	6,214	241	10,781
41	41	2,309	2,440	26	3,989	5,421	6,210	241	10,770
42	42	2,318	2,449	26	3,978	5,417	6,206	241	10,759
43	43	2,327	2,458	25	3,967	5,413	6,202	241	10,748
44	44	2,336	2,467	25	3,956	5,409	6,198	241	10,737
45	45	2,345	2,476	24	3,945	5,405	6,194	241	10,726
46	46	2,354	2,485	24	3,934	5,401	6,190	241	10,715
47	47	2,363	2,494	23	3,923	5,397	6,186	241	10,704
48	48	2,372	2,503	23	3,912	5,393	6,182	241	10,693
49	49	2,381	2,512	22	3,901	5,389	6,178	241	10,682
50	50	2,390	2,521	22	3,890	5,385	6,174	241	10,671
51	51	2,399	2,530	21	3,879	5,381	6,170	241	10,660
52	52	2,408	2,539	21	3,868	5,377	6,166	241	10,649
53	53	2,417	2,548	20	3,857	5,373	6,162	241	10,638
54	54	2,426	2,557	20	3,846	5,369	6,158	241	10,627
55	55	2,435	2,566	19	3,835	5,365	6,154	241	10,616
56	56	2,444	2,575	19	3,824	5,361	6,150	241	10,605
57	57	2,453	2,584	18	3,813	5,357	6,146	241	10,594
58	58	2,462	2,593	18	3,802	5,353	6,142	241	10,583
59	59	2,471	2,602	17	3,791	5,349	6,138	241	10,572



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SPECTRUM

The town of Jucuapa in the south-east of El Salvador is trapped between the warring factions in El Salvador's bloody civil war. One day it is occupied by the guerrillas, the next by government forces. John Carlin reports on the people trapped in the middle

Caught in the cross-fire

San Salvador

The bank clerk with the limp and six children had had enough. "Tell la Señora Thatcher", he said. "Tell her to send over three or four of her Royal Navy boats to take us to the Malvinas. You ask anybody here if they'd rather stay living in this place or go with her to the Malvinas, I tell you, they would all say they would go with her, even if the cold is as terrible as they say it is." A dozen weather-beaten faces huddled together in the corner of a plaza in Chinameca murmured, smiled, nodded agreement.

Chinameca is a middle-sized town of 20,000 people in the south east of El Salvador, just on the San Miguel side of the border with Usulután, coffee-growing areas among the most battered by the four year civil war here. A mile directly west, in Usulután, is Jucuapa, a town the same size as Chinameca, equally saddened and depressed, caught, literally, in the crossfire of the war, one day controlled by the army, the next by the guerrillas.

One afternoon, quite recently, children were running around the tall palm

"Guerrillas are quiet, the army shouts"

trees of the square in Jucuapa, picking up empty bullet cartridges, while 500 soldiers in Green Ford lorries made their way up the road in pursuit of 20 guerrillas. A half hour gun battle had just ended there in the plaza in which the only victim had been one soldier who had his brains blown out, bits of which were lying on the ground outside the local Red Cross building.

"That's always the way it is. The army comes in. They make a terrible noise firing all their American rifles, machine guns and things. A helicopter comes in firing rockets from above - and the guerrillas get away." Speaking in impeccably English, Señor Quiroga, a 62-year-old ex-butcher turned Red Cross worker, looked on the predicament of his town with a little more resignation, even irony, than the people around, most of them silent, in a post-panic glaze.

"The guerrillas will be back this evening, of course", Señor Quiroga chuckled, a somewhat detached spectator, as if secretly delighting in the futile bluster of town had witnessed that last half hour. And Señor Quiroga was right. Three guerrillas drove into town a few hours later in a Jeep they had recently commandeered from a member of the local Christian Demo-

cratic Party.

Doña Berta is a well-known matron about town aged 50, who runs a small shop on the Plaza in Jucuapa. There she sells everything from Italian-made shirts to those *muchachos femininas* which the *muchachos* the women guerrillas need to come to get from time to time.

"They come here to buy their things", explains Doña Berta, a notorious town chatterbox. "You know, one thing you have to say about them. They are very *respetuosos* - respectful - they don't steal things or make a noise."

Doña Berta knows her husband will tell her off later but she likes to talk, she explains, redundantly. "When the guerrillas, *los muchachos*, first arrived here and in Chinameca in October last year me and my friends, our legs were trembling. We had heard so many terrible things about them on the radio and in the papers. But they're so quiet and *discretos* - you always know when the army comes in because they always shout so much and use so many dreadful swear words."

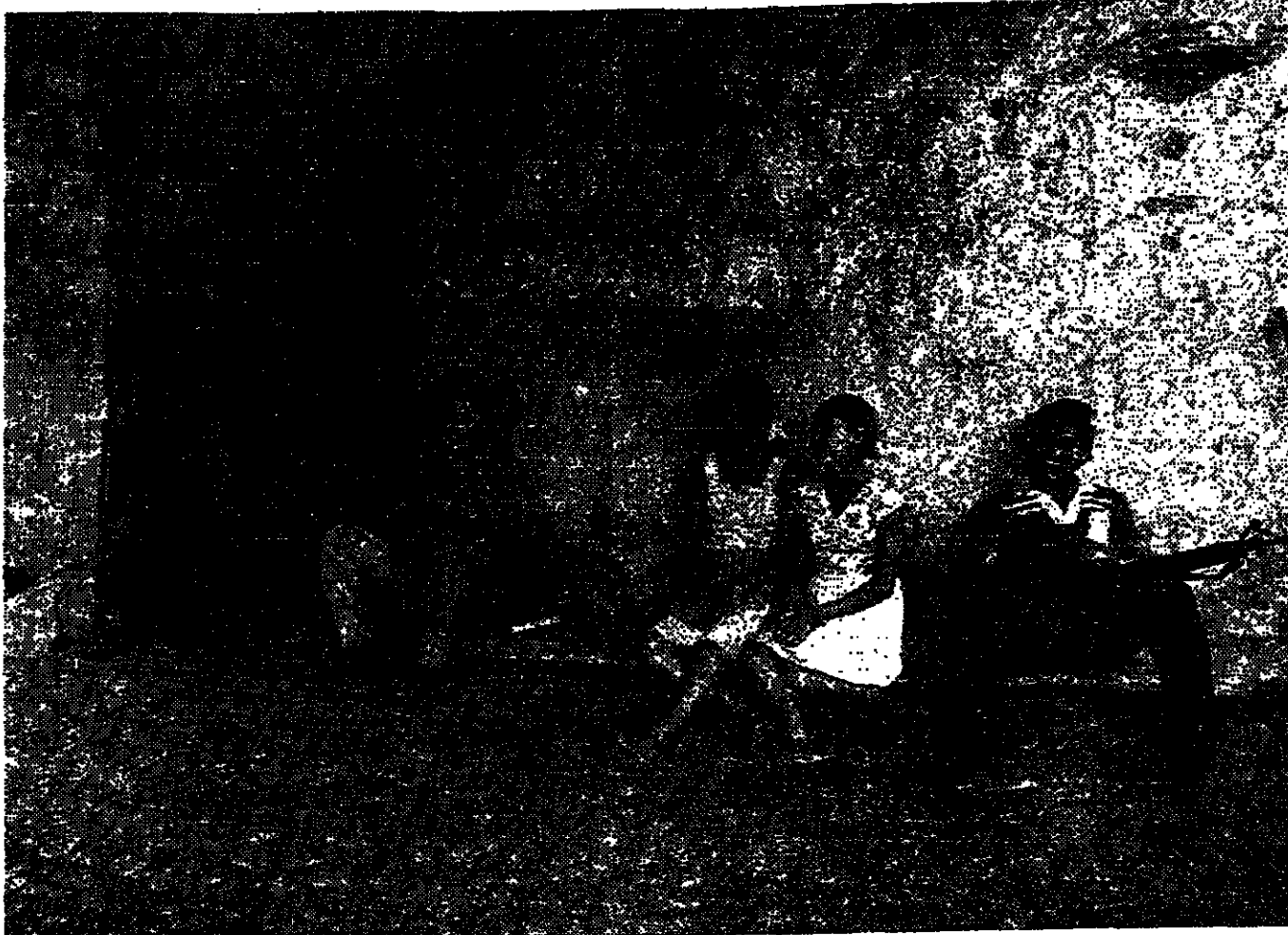
A team of white oxen drives past the door of Doña Berta's shop, the driver, with the ubiquitous straw hat, his look, typically vacant one of the malnourished Salvadoran *campesino*.

"Of course, the *muchachos* have upset a few people", Doña Berta goes on. "After the owners ignored three warnings to close down three bars and a brothel in town, the *muchachos* forced them to do so at gunpoint. But, if you ask me, it's the best thing that could have happened. All those poor women out there who can't feed their children but whose husbands go out and get drunk every night, those women, I tell you, they got down on their knees and thanked the *muchachos*."

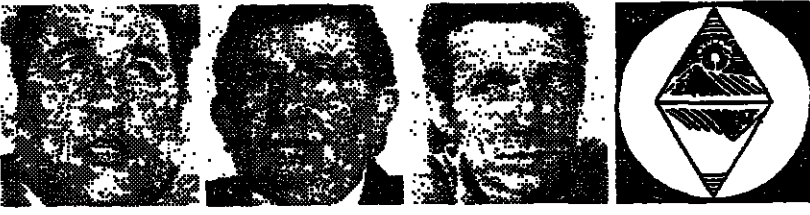
"Almost the first thing they did when they came into town was to rob the bank, which was pretty bad. But," Doña Berta smiles mischievously, offering a glimpse of the ample gold in her teeth, "they spent all the money here in the town. We did great business, for once. We're all frightened here though", says Doña Berta. "It's so terrifying when the army and the guerrillas meet here in the town. I have nightmares about it. We all do."

That same afternoon, a few hours later, Doña Berta emerged from her shop patting her hair back into shape after half an hour flat on her stomach with bullets cracking past her windows.

The next morning in Las Marias, a hillside hamlet five minutes' drive south, the *muchachos* were sitting around on guard. Waiting it was not



War and peace: a moment of relaxation for Salvadorean guerrilla fighters in the countryside. Below, the political leaders in profile and, right, the journey that Carlin took with the guerrillas



Roberto D'Aubuisson, 40, candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). A former Army major, he is a right-wing extremist who thinks all his opponents are communists. Backed by business and landowning interests. Widely believed to have close links with death squads, he is nevertheless a charismatic figure with considerable popular support. Elected president of the Constituent Assembly in 1982.

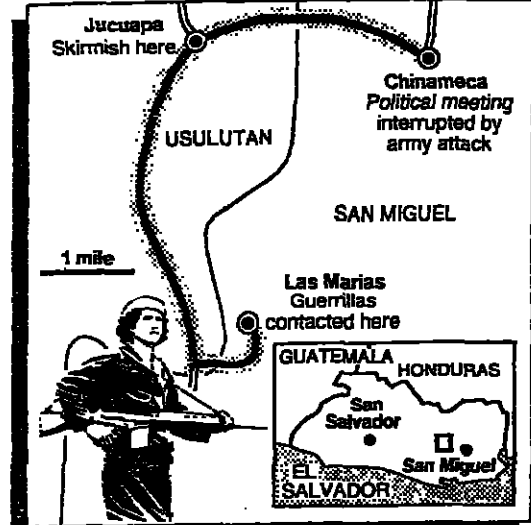
José Napoleón Duarte, 58, candidate of the Christian Democrat Party (PDC). Elected President in 1972

on a reformist platform, he was denied power by the Army, and forced into exile. Headed ineffectual civilian-military junta, 1980-82. Won 40 per cent of votes in 1982 elections. Labelled a madman by ARENA, he wants dialogue with guerrillas. Backed by organized labour.

Francisco Guerrero, 58, candidate of the National Conciliation Party (PCN), the traditional party of the Salvadoran landowning and military establishment, which held power 1981-79. Believed to enjoy discreet support of US Embassy, as representing middle ground

between ARENA and PDC. Preferred by some military officers to Major D'Aubuisson.

Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), the guerrillas' umbrella organization, formed in 1980 under a General Command. Main components are: Popular Liberation Forces (FPL); People's Revolutionary Army (ERP); National Resistance (RN) and Armed Forces of Liberation (FAL). Originally promised not to disrupt elections, but the ERP leader, Commandante Joaquín Villalobos, later vowed to "deepen the war"



even during the campaign. FMLN has about 6,000 regular forces and 8,000 reservists, and claims to control one-third of the country. Allied to the

Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), a broad grouping of parties, unions and professional bodies in exile. Led by Guillermo Ungo, a Social Democrat.

clear yet what for. One of them called Compañero Ramón - the guerrillas are always called *compañeros* something. Compañero Ramón was 25, wore thick glasses, was slightly stooped and had a very earnest look about him - every inch a university arts student save for the M-16 automatic rifle.

He had begun studying humanities at the national university in San Salvador seven years ago, when he decided to join "the armed struggle". "Before then I used to smoke marijuana, listen to Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin, you know the sort of thing. I never went hungry myself. My father is well off. He's an architect, living in the United States now. It was seeing so many people so poor that made me go and fight."

"How long will you fight?" "Depende de Don Reagan", comes the smiling reply.

A light blue jeep rolls up with the initials B-R-A-Z on the side in bold red letters for Brigada Rafael Arce

Zablah, the crack troops of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front's (F.M.L.N.'s) 10,000 fighters.

Out of the Jeep jumps the ever-beaming Compañero Ernesto, who loves driving and has been thrilled ever since the BRAZ, of which he is a veteran member, captured the jeep two months back. Ernesto likes to joke about all the presents Ronald Reagan sends them. He points to his rifle, to his black and green military boots and his rucksack with the printed initials, US. "All those tins of meat USAID sent here - very nice and tender, but tell President Reagan to add a little more spicing next time."

The midday rebel news broadcast now ends and Ernesto finds Michael Jackson on his Sony radio. The nine or ten *muchachos*, none more than 25, sitting in the shade on the side of the road light up in recognition, clapping and tapping their feet. Ernesto said that in their camp the favourite video cassette was Michael Jackson's "Thriller".

"Do you mean to say you have a video cassette player?"

Yeah, a Betamax. We've got one compañero who's a really great dancer and just from watching the video he can dance to "Beat It" exactly like Michael Jackson."

During the afternoon, columns of guerrillas, one woman for every dozen men began to file down the mountain trails, all of them carrying automatic rifles. Some had heavy machine guns with golden bullet belts across their chests, others with bazookas horizontal across their backs, or boxed radio sets with tall quivering antennae. Occasionally lorries would pass by, full of armed guerrillas, heading north in the direction of Jucuapa and Chinameca.

As dusk approached, a Cherokee chief station wagon pulled up, inside it men with bushy beards looking taller and older than the rest - "Los Comandantes", the word got around.

Time to leave. A convoy of seven vehicles set off towards Jucuapa. The convoy drove through Jucuapa, the streets empty at six in the evening, laicely tightly shut, everyone in terror the shooting would begin again. But the guerrillas drove through Jucuapa. Their destination, Chinameca, for "a political meeting". The convoy arrived, horns blaring, loudspeakers summoning everyone to the plaza. Chinameca is just half an hour's drive from San Miguel, army headquarters for the whole of eastern El Salvador. The guerrillas spilled out and began daubing slogans on every wall, putting banners up across streets. "Death to imperialism. Viva el FMLN". Neither Duarte nor D'Aubuisson will stop the revolution.

A few Chinamecans, some of them drunk, began to emerge warily from their homes. The fear was visible on their faces: what happens if the army comes? Fear too that someone in the town would betray them for going to the guerrilla meeting. About 200 finally

"The rich treat us like oxen"

gathered - and at least that number of guerrillas posted in the town, and hundreds more outside, on guard.

A comandante, ten years in arms, stood on a podium and began to speak. "These reforms the Americans talk about. They're just crumbs. The Yankee imperialists won't change anything. In the long run the proletarian classes must decide their own destiny..."

As the guerrilla spoke, someone behind him began to set up the video machine to a borrowed TV set to show a film made by the guerrillas on the "heroic struggle" two years ago to win control of the north-eastern province of Morazán. The crowd watch, fascinated.

"They're right the *muchachos*, you know," said a thin, unemployed drunk. "The rich treat us like oxen, and they kill us like pigs if they think we're a danger to them; they don't want us to be educated. There's a terrible hunger, a terrible hunger, señor, and not just for food... but cultural hunger, a hunger of the spirit." The film ends, the speaker resumes. The people stream home as it nears midnight.

Next morning at six the guerrillas rise out of the sleeping bags with which they'd carpeted the main plaza, in the shadow of the church. They stop all buses from leaving town. No one can go off to San Miguel to work. A guerrilla theatre show draws 300 people. It's an allegory, like a medieval religious play.

"Meister Imperialismo", wearing a tall Uncle Sam hat, is played by a 26-year-old, until two years ago a university student in New Jersey, Dona Oligarquia is another character; and there are caricatures of a drunken President Magana surrounded by colonels. "Colonel Jaime Flores", yells the presenter. "Not only the fattest colonel in the world but also the most incompetent, with the body of an elephant and the brain of an ant - with apologies to ants!" The crowd laughs.

Tomorrow

The cost-cutters: Portsmouth is sending NHS patients to private hospitals. Is this the shape of the health service to come?



She hasn't enough to drink, but the little she has is killing her.

After years of drought, many old people in Third World Countries are caught in a tragic dilemma.

On one hand, the shortage of water threatens their lives. On the other, what little water is left is contaminated and unsafe to drink.

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Help the aged

moreover... Miles Kington

Encore blimey, know what I mean?

Who are Los Tros Paranormals? Why are they causing such a tremendous fuss in the world of extra-sensory perception? And an equal sensation in the world of rock music? Because Los Tros Paranormals are the first living proof that Arthur Koestler's theories about paranormal communications may hold water.

Los Tros Paranormals are three young men from Leeds who claim to play a concert in one town while their audience sits in another place. Last month they played for two hours in an empty concert hall in Leeds while an audience of 300 sat in an auditorium in Bradford. And many of that audience claimed to receive definite musical messages.

"I was sitting there in my seat concentrating," says one member of the experimental audience, "when all at once I start getting these atrocious headaches and feelings of claustrophobia, not to mention tight shoes. I only ever get these feelings in a rock concert. How do you explain that?"

"It was uncanny," says another listener, Hazel, 23, a temp secretary with the Mafia. "I was sitting there, hearing vague far-off sounds of music in my head, when all at once I got the feeling that I was actually Pauline, 36, an old Fats Domino fan. I mean, that weird. After that I suddenly felt that in some previous existence I had been Russell Hardy. Now, that was weird. After that, I passed out. That was normal."

What this all seems to prove is that the music played by Los Tros Paranormals is passed in some inexplicable way into the minds of people far out of earshot. Even if the wind blew from Leeds to Bradford on the night in question, there is no

way that the audience could have heard the music physically as the group's PA refused to function. Enormous excitement has been caused by the paranormal world by the exploits of the group, according to the manager of the group, Alan Franks (no relation). He says that this puts the video revolution into the shade. What we've got here, he says, is something like telekarma, or perhaps cable telepathy, anyway it's big business and he's open to any offers, in writing only, sorry, no paranormal contracts.

But a note of caution has been struck in the rock world by Sam Price, Paranormal Adviser to the Musicians' Union. "We cautiously welcome any advance in technology as long as it doesn't endanger jobs", he says. "And if, as seems possible, a group like Los Tros Paranormals can play in one place and be heard in another, this is good. Because it means that our members can fail to turn up for a gig and still get paid for it. Well, that's flipping fantastic."

The big test for Los Tros Paranormals comes next

month, when they are booked into the Odeon Hammersmith for a live gig, which they intend to play from a service area on the M1 near Northampton. A lot depends on how the critical London audience reacts to a completely absentee act. But Poco Fernando feels quietly confident.

"I feel quietly confident", he told me from 200 miles away, in his bed in Leeds. "Firstly, I'm not even using a home at the moment. And yet you're hearing me. How do you explain that?"

(This column was dictated to The Times by telephone at a time when The Times operators were not answering. Explain that if you can.)

7 Noteworthy things (11)

8 Man's innate office (8,3)

12 Sanctify with oil (6)

14 Animal collection (3)

15 Regard with esteem (6)

19 Open car cover (7)

20 Feeble person (3)

24 Once more (5)

25 Eyelid swelling (4)

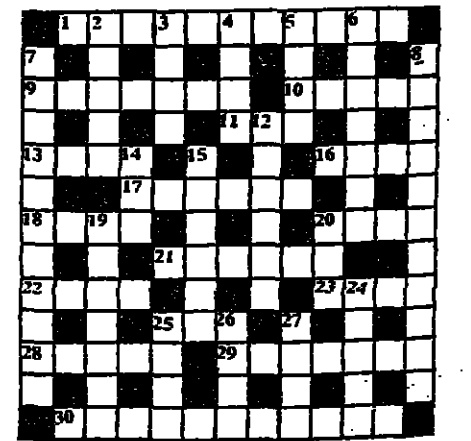
26 Roused (4)

27 Make full (4)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 301)

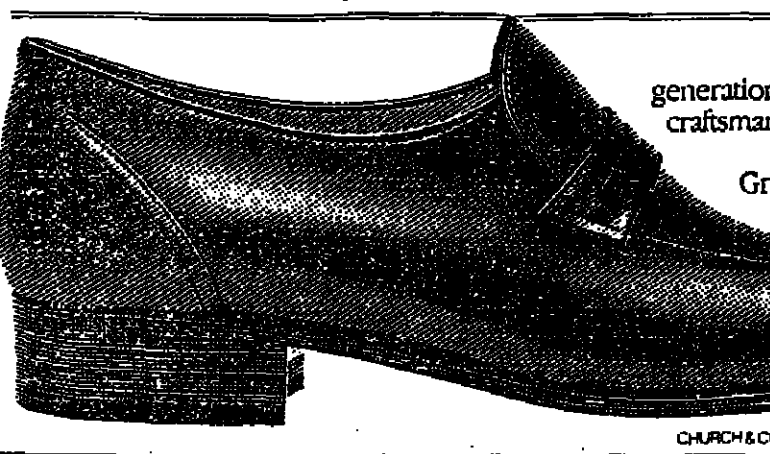
ACROSS
1 Highest African peak (11)
9 Prohibition (7)
10 At no time (5)
11 Become larger (3)
13 Public crier's shout (4)
16 Boast (4)
17 Expected to win (4,2)
18 Lowest female voice (4)
20 Encourage to change (4)
21 Betrothed man (6)
22 Is not (4)
23 High (4)
25 Switch (3)
28 That is (2,3)
29 Paper folding art (7)
30 Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia (11)

DOWN
2 Instil (5)
3 Christ's cross label (4)
4 Affirm (4)
5 Unlucky object (4)
6 Move backwards (7)



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MONDAY PAGE

The new American body politic



Carter: jogging flop

American leaders make political capital of their health while British *laissez faire* leaves fitness unquestioned Geoffrey Cannon believes health and politics ought to mix

Why did American voters decide that Jimmy Carter couldn't fulfil his promises and should be voted out of the presidency? I believe he lost the election when the world saw pictures of him stumbling and half-fainting during a 10 kilometre fun run held near Camp David on a hot day, which the president insisted on treating as a race.

The average British reaction to Carter making a fool of himself was that jogging was a foolish activity anyway. We still accept well-upholstered politicians: it's striking that Mrs Thatcher's thrusting youngish stars are the chubby Leon Brittan and the definitely rotund Nigel Lawson.

President Reagan's chest has grown 1½ inches since he started lifting weights. "Move over Jane Fonda", he wrote last December, "here comes the Ronald Reagan workout plan."

A 12-page feature in the latest issue of the monthly magazine *American Health* shows just how far the leaders and would-be leaders of the United States

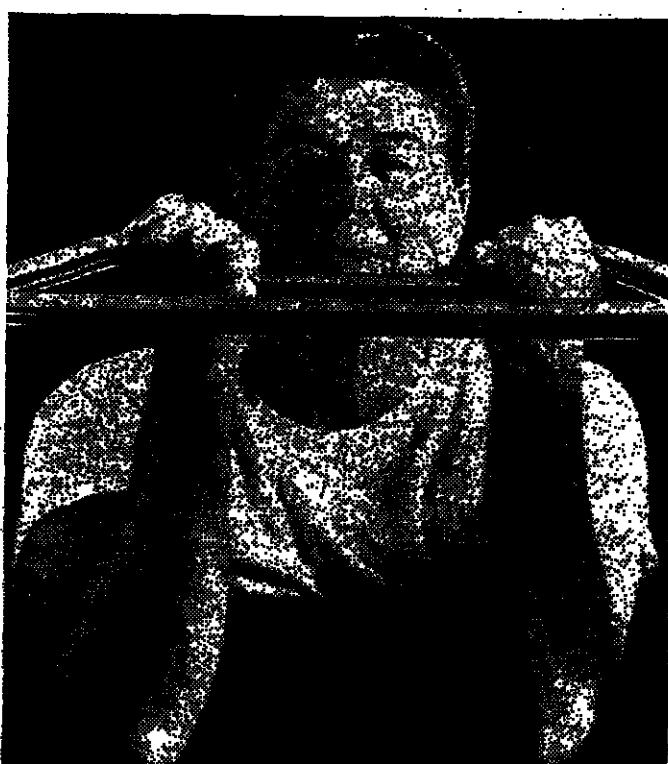
are willing to go to prove to the voters that they are fit and healthy. The feature includes the results of interviews with the personal physicians of the eight initial Democratic presidential candidates, and also of President Reagan and Vice-President George Bush.

The table of results reproduced on the right doesn't just list common-or-garden vital statistics like age, height and weight. Also revealed are the ages at which each candidate's father and mother died, and cause of death; blood pressure; and cholesterol, triglyceride, and high density lipoprotein count.

"Today, Walter Mondale talks openly about how he controls his mild high blood pressure," the magazine says. "Gary Hart makes no secret of his thyroid surgery a few years ago."

Hart's doctor, Freeman Cary, reveals that in the past two years he has treated Hart for an infected eye, poison ivy, ingrowing toe nail and a cold.

Dr Milton M. Hurwitz, Mondale's doctor, reveals that over the years his patient has



Reagan: move over Fonda

tried and rejected some beta-blockers, because they cause sluggishness and depression. He does take a daily dose of Dyzide, Hydralazine and Atenolol. He has so far found no side effects with this last drug, "though a small percentage who take it report depression or fatigue". I was in Florida during the recent primary campaign and Mondale looked pretty knackered to me.

Ronald Reagan exercises daily in the White House gym after work. He warms up for 10 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of workout. He walks on a treadmill, rides an exercycle, does leg lifts, uses a bodybuilding machine and lifts hand weights of up to 15 pounds. On weekends at Camp David and on vacation at his Californian ranch, he rides. Also he chops wood, clears brush and (metaphorically) "mends fences". His regular medicine? Daily vitamins, which he believes in strongly.

"So far the President hasn't shown any sign of his years", said the White House physician, Dr Daniel Ruge. "Everybody is looking for evidence that he has aged while he has been president, and they are just not seeing it. I'm not seeing it either." He added that Reagan has not had a facelift and does not use hair dye.

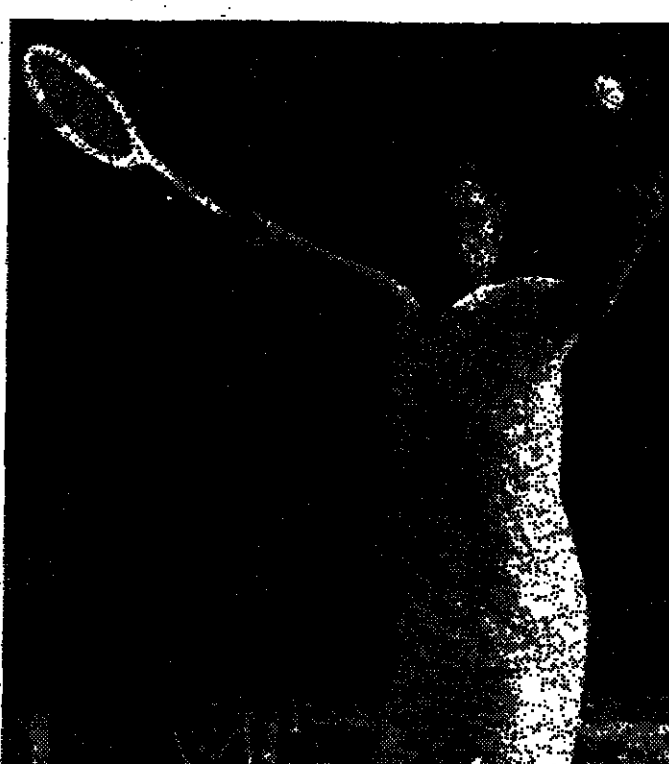
The President's father was a drunk who smoked 60 cigarettes a day and died, aged 60, after a series of heart attacks. His

mother died of a stroke aged 80, but for years before suffered from Alzheimer's disease - premature senile dementia. There's some thought that Alzheimer's disease can be passed from one generation to the next, but Ruge says: "The President doesn't have it." He has not tested Reagan specifically for senility - asking him to subtract sums in his head, for instance - because there has been no hint of a problem. Four years ago, Reagan pledged to step down if he detected any signs of senility in himself.

What else did the profiles reveal? Hart and Mondale both smoke an occasional cigar: the rest are non-smokers. Jesse Jackson is "violently anti-smoking" according to his doctor. Five candidates take daily vitamins. Each of the candidates, apart from George Bush, has cut down eating animal fats, especially meat, because of the increased risk of heart attacks.

The difference between the US and Britain is that for Americans, nutrition, fitness, health and disease, and the relationship between these, are vote winners and campaign issues. Mondale, Glenn and Hart have all pledged to increase federal funds for "national nutrition". And they were not just referring to soup kitchens.

A recent medical trial, costing \$165m, conclusively proved



Mondale: no salt served

that lowering blood cholesterol lowered the risk of heart attack. Ronald Reagan now refuses sausages and drinks skimmed milk.

In the last 15 years the death rate from heart disease has dropped 30 per cent in the US,

yet in Britain it has hardly changed. Scotland and Northern Ireland now have the highest death rates in the world, with England and Wales close behind.

It is hard to imagine British journalists insisting on the truth



Hart: no secrets hid

about Mrs Thatcher's high density lipoprotein levels, or the Queen's triglyceride count. To my mind, the knowledge of and concern for the national health that such questions would indicate would make for a healthier nation. Woodrow

Wilson once said that, one day, presidents would be selected from "wise and prudent athletes - a small class". Can we look forward to a time in Britain when political double chins will wobble in apprehension, rather than complacency?

	Age	Height	Weight (lbs)	Blood Pressure	Cholesterol	TG	Father died	Mother died
REAGAN	73	6ft 1in	194	120/80	191	106	60, heart attack	80, stroke
MONDALE	56	5ft 11½in	168	128/78	220	83	72, stroke	78, breast cancer
HART	46	6ft 1in	173	106/76	194	74	69, heart attack	64, heart disease
JACKSON	42	6ft 2in	210	112/70	140	107	68, alive and well	57, alive and well

Cholesterol: "normal" range for 130 to 270 but American Medical Association now recommends under 190 to forestall heart and vascular disease. TG = Triglycerides: "normal" range from 25 to 275. When other factors normal, TG under 250 should mean no problems.

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PENNY PERRICK

PG tips and all that

Provided that you are over 18, you may buy a ticket for a film called *The Best Bit of Crumpet in Denmark*. Over 15, and you're entitled to watch Patricia Hodge in *Betrayal* - she plays the best bit of crumpet in Belgravia. For *Champions*, a true story of courage and cancer, you require PG (Parental Guidance) although children of all ages are allowed into the film of *La Traviata* (U), a fairytale of camellias and consumption.

This method of certification does not go far enough. The British Board of Film Censors is merely concerned with setting the lowest age limit for permitted movie-going without a thought given to those of us of, ahem, a certain age who could just as certainly be corrupted by indiscriminate visits to the cinema. For those too young to stay home at night but too old for Parental Guidance, I hereby designate certain films U350 (Under 35s Only). Any one of them could turn a normal middle-aged person into something utterly depraved.

Nostalgia movies such as *The Big Chill*: Now that we're well and truly in the '80s, it may be mentally damaging to watch films that refer back to the '60s. They can only rekindle your enthusiasm for Status quo and make you dissatisfied with Michael Jackson. If you are a woman, they will make you want to grow your hair again and straighten it with a warm iron the way you used to.

If you are a man, you will feel a compelling urge to ring up a friend who is now a vice-president of an international oil consortium and remind him of the good old days of anti-Vietnam marches and summers spent in Welsh communes. He may never invite you to lunch at the Connaught again.

life, beautiful young women only hang around with men who look like Woody Allen if such men really are rich, internationally acclaimed film directors. And even then, they often trade them in for Warren Beatty.

Any film where the romantic leads are played by James Garner and Julie Andrews: However light and frothy this film might be, there will come a time, usually as the camera moves in for a close-up of the two principals, when the realization hits you that this couple shouldn't be playing boy meets girl: they should be playing grandparents.

For days afterwards, you will worry about your clothes being too young for you and you will not be able to pass a mirror without inspecting your neck for crepey patches.

It's perfectly all right to see real spine-chillers like *Verigo*. Anything made pre-1960 comes in the category S350 (safe for 35-year-olds and over) because even if people in them hurl off rooftops with horrible thuds, they are all wearing snap-brimmed hats or dresses with zippers at the back, which show that they are part of pre-history.

Prince Charles has said that he would like a daughter "to look after me in my old age". Let us wish then, for both their sakes, that he doesn't leave it too long before making preparations to ensure that caring for him is more of a joy than a burden. I hope that in two decades or so, when HRH is still in sound health, that he will move to a house near to where his daughter lives so that later, when he is frail, she will not have to travel long distances to see that all is well. I hope that he will develop interests that he will still be able to pursue when he is a very old gentleman. The crankiest old men I know are those who have never developed a taste for reading or music or arranging photographs. I hope he maintains a loving relationship with all his grandchildren. Most of all I hope that he doesn't single out one daughter, even if she is the most beloved of all his children, to be his sole nurse, companion and maistress of his declining years.

TALKBACK

Not so poor

From Celia Battersby, *The Old Vicarage, Pott Shrigley, Nr. Macclesfield, Cheshire*. I feel that I must comment on Maggie Drummond's highly emotional article, *Playing Havoc In The Nursery* (Monday Page, March 19).

First of all, I would not describe a salary of £9,000 a year as "modest". It seems to me quite adequate, particularly if it is pensionable.

Secondly, I am mystified by the reference to Mr Lawson's "army of jackboots". I thought the Chancellor was a member of a government democratically elected by a large majority less than a year ago.

Thirdly, the Budget increased the personal allowance by £220; and the success of the Government's anti-inflationary policies resulted last week in a reduction in mortgage rates. So, thanks to Mr Lawson, Gillian Dickens is considerably better off than she was a week ago.

I quite agree that company cars provide an unfair fiscal advantage. But abolition of this concession is, I believe, strenuously opposed by the trades unions, since it would cause the collapse of the new car market.

Maggie Drummond cannot resist taking the obligatory swipe at Sainsbury's. But I find it costs me considerably less to buy food at Sainsbury's than in the local take-away, though the latter is reputedly the haunt of the low-paid.

Finally, why on earth does Maggie constitute herself the spokeswoman of the poor? ("The rich can have their nannies... but it's forcing the rest of us into such a vicious circle.") As a working wife, she benefits from the most unfair concession of all, the married woman's earned income allowance; so she and her husband are entitled to £5,210 per annum before they pay a penny of tax. To many of us that makes them seem quite rich!

From Mrs Angela Davies, *6 St John's Mount, Easingwold, York*.

I congratulate Maggie Drummond's lucky friends with children at Kingsway Child Centre. What happy women they must be: they have children, jobs, a good crèche and employers who pay two thirds of the cost of child care. Now (only now!) they are paying tax on their employers' contributions towards the nursery fees. Welcome to the ranks

of financially penalized working mothers.

We are not "the rich" who can have their nannies and charge them as secretaries. We are young, employed, professional women with young, employed, professional salaries which make that of the lady quoted - a "modest £9,000" plus £2,760 child care contributions - seem quite respectable. We have no good crèches available. Our employers would frankly laugh at the suggestion that they should contribute towards child care costs. We have to employ nannies and pay their salaries, board and lodging out of our taxed income. The total cost is far greater than the employee's contribution paid to Kingsway Child Centre. We too were encouraged into our professions with university places and grants. We too are rewarded for motherhood with maternity pay and family allowances. We too suffer from the lack of logic pervading high places.

Will Ms Drummond please note that her friends are the privileged few - not we who struggle to find and keep good nannies without financial assistance. The point she makes against the tax system is an important and valid one - but will she please make it on behalf of all of us and not just the lucky ones?

From John Turner, *70 Larkhall Rise, London SW4*.

It was a tonic to learn from Mrs Hyde (Talkback, March 19) that all I need is a "different outlook on life" to be "really happy and fulfilled" without a child of my own.

My wife, Anne Whitehouse, wrote her article on the fertility drug treatment - not she is receiving to reveal the unpublishable side of sensational fertility drug successes and to plead for a more tactful and sympathetic approach to those receiving such treatment. Her tone was not one of "whining self-pity" as Mrs Hyde suggested (she stressed that she had comparatively little to suffer and related how we both see the funny side and there was nothing in the article to suggest that parenthood was an automatic right).

It was the unsympathetic attitudes of people like Mrs Hyde (who describes herself as the fortunate but not, she hopes, smug mother of two) that my wife was seeking to influence. Most people are sympathetic towards pregnancy and the nation has wild fits of enthusiasm at successful multiple births. For those with fertility problems, on the other hand, the picture is very different.



PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

New speaks to Old

The other evening, French television viewers watched their very dignified president, aged 68, being lowered by helicopter on to the White House lawn and greeted by the biologically still-older, but spiritually more child-like American head of state, with a delighted cry of "Bee-jaw!" Once more, the New World was talking to the Old.

What a wealth of incompatibilities was here displayed. If all public figures have an era in which they are forever set, then François Mitterrand is the melancholic, post-war, St Germain-des-Près intellectual, and Ronald Reagan the optimist from the pre-war Wheaties advertisement on that Iowa radio station. Inevitably they got on, by all accounts, famously. Surely each would have been so fascinated by the bizarre creature embodied in the other, there would have been no time left in which to fall out?

Soon after the opening conversation between the odd couple, Mitterrand was off to make a speech to a joint session of Congress. Mitterrand addressed, in his stately, distinguished French, the most monoglot, anglophone legislature in the world. Mutual incomprehension was total. This event too was regarded as an enormous success. Carefully judging the moment when it was safe to assume that the Frenchman had ended his speech, Vice-President George Bush, who presides over the Senate, and that Irishman whose curious first name is "Tip", and who presides over the House of Representatives, rose together and led the tumultuous applause.

Back in France, the visit was arousing rather more interest than most of Mitterrand's frequent, ceremonial journeys. The country of de Tocqueville remains fascinated by things American. This fascination is born of feelings of both inferiority and superiority. On the one hand, the French, in general, embrace the "cultural desert" theory of American civilization. The thing is, the American think de Tocqueville is some town where they make clocks. On the other hand, the French, in general, have an intense interest in American culture.

Who started writing all those scholarly studies, in the 1950s and 1960s, about myth and symbol in the West? Not the amiable Hollywood hacks and rogues who produced the stuff, but the French theorizing classes, writing in magazines with such titles as *Cahiers de Cinéma*.

The explanation, perhaps, is that France is only half at home with being a great ornament of the Old World. Mitterrand, so much an Old Worldling in manner and speech, is only one half of France. The other is the country which wishes that France, rather than America, had had the revolution which created the world anew - as France attempted a few years after the United States came into being.

Failure sells

A steady seller in the Paris bookshops these last few months has been a huge work by an Englishman from France translated by a French politician. It is outselling a work by a German, which, in Paris, had previously dominated the same field. The Englishman is Edward Gibbon, who died in 1794, and whose *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* has been reissued by Laffont in two fat, soft-cover volumes, two columns a page, rendered into French by King Louis Philippe's chief minister, Guizot, who died in 1874. The German book that it is selling off is Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West*.

Gibbon dates the decline from the third century of our era, and Spengler, who started writing his book just before the First World War, as some indeterminate point many centuries later. This does not really matter to the Paris reading public. It is the idea of the decline of civilization which is so fascinating at the moment, perhaps understandably. "Decline of the West" was the title of an article by the Gaullist former prime minister, M. Debré, on the US retreat from Lebanon.

Spengler's book has always been mocked in the English-speaking world, in my view wrongly (from passages I have read). But it has always done steady business in France, whose civilization has collapsed within living memory. A cursory check on Guizot's Gibbon shows that those famous, rather smutty footnotes seem to be faithfully captured, including the one about the ruler who had lots of books and concubines, both of which were designed for use rather than ostentation. The German contender is rather short of jokes, which could explain his failure, in the French market, to meet British competition.

BARRY FANTONI



"The proprietor regrets, Monsieur, but he cannot deduct the bill from Britain's repayments to the EEC."

Building on the new realism



The late 1970s was a period of illusion and self-deception. Domestically, Western governments pretended their economies could live with the inflationary fever which wracked them; internationally, they pretended that détente had ushered in a new and cooperative period in East-West relations. Overheated imagination weakened resistance at home and abroad.

In the 1980s we have brought the temperature down. The treatment has been difficult. It is much easier to pretend that things are all right than to put them right. Responsible economic management has replaced inflationary *laissez-faire*. Sound money is back in fashion. A hard-headed assessment of Western security has replaced a world of East-West *ma-fa-fa-fa*. Secure defences have been restored. We have broken decisively with a period of intellectual laziness when the seductive charms of self-deception were leading us towards self-destruction. We are stronger and fitter and better able to deal with the issues that face us at home and abroad.

Events in the past four years leave no doubt that a reassessment of East-West relations, and a rebuilding of Western defences, was overdue. At the end of 1979, the Soviet Army invaded Afghanistan, the first time since the Second World War it had been used outside the Warsaw Pact. It is still there. In 1980-81, we watched a drama of towering courage and terrible disappointment much closer to home, in Poland. Anyone still deluding himself about the true nature of communist power had only to watch the ruthless suppression of the Polish people's efforts to secure some of those civil and political freedoms which we take for granted. And all the time, despite their peace protestations, the Russians continued to deploy SS-20 missiles targeted against West European cities.

Those events reinforced the new mood of Western realism. But a realistic assessment of the nature of East-West relations was only the first step; the second was to act on that assessment. That is what Britain and the other members of the alliance have been doing.

In the past four years we have increased our defence spending, and we have implemented our decision to deploy cruise and Pershing II missiles and so prevent the Soviet Union from establishing a monopoly of medium-range missiles in Europe. No Western government has taken pleasure in having to do either of these things. But the Soviet military build-up, and Soviet refusal to negotiate seriously in Geneva and Vienna about nuclear and conventional arms reductions, gave us no choice if we wished to ensure the continued strength and credibility of the Western alliance. By showing that we are ready to meet the Soviet military challenge we have reduced the risk that the Russians will mistake our resolve. By doing that, we have reduced the risk of war.

For it was not just the West that was deluding itself in the late 1970s. The Russians, to judge from their international conduct, had concluded that the Western attachment to détente was so great that we would turn a blind eye to Soviet behaviour that did not affect us directly, and even to some Soviet behaviour that did. They were wrong. Western governments have spent more on defence despite the recession. Western peoples have held firm on INF (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces) deployment despite a Soviet propaganda campaign designed to frighten and confuse them. We must hope that

the Russians have re-learned the lesson that the West will not allow its interests to go by default. If so, with illusions shed on both sides, we can now pursue a realistic dialogue with the aim of negotiating agreements which are in the interests of East and West.

That is what the Western alliance has been saying to the Russians in recent months. It was the message of a number of speeches which I made in the last few months of 1983. Persistent Reagan signalled it loud and clear in his speech on January 16. It was central to what I told Hungarian leaders when I visited Budapest in February, and the new Soviet leaders when I went to Moscow for the funeral of President Andropov. It is what the Nato allies said at the meetings of foreign and defence ministers in December, and what they have been saying since at the CDE (Conference on European Disarmament) negotiations in Stockholm. We want an East-West dialogue that leads not to declaratory texts of little substance, but to concrete steps of practical value.

We are not just looking for progress in Stockholm, where the agenda is confidence-building measures. We want agreements on conventional and chemical weapons. Above all we want agreements in the nuclear field. The Americans are ready to resume SALT (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) and INF talks in Geneva at any time. The Russians must show an equal willingness. They will not be understood or forgiven if they stay sulking in their tent. The Americans, supported by the allies, are looking for major reductions in the nuclear arsenals of both sides. They have put forward radical proposals. They are prepared to be flexible. But at present all they can see is an empty chair.



The West will persevere. That is the way forward. But we must do so by settling patiently to the task of constructing a stable East-West relationship built on the rock of mutual understanding and respect, not on the sand of high-flown rhetoric and dramatic initiatives. This means building up our contacts with the Russians so that we can discuss the whole range of questions which concern us, not just arms control. For without a broad framework, and the understanding and confidence which comes from multiple and substantial contact, progress towards arms control agreements will be much more difficult. We must also expand and strengthen our links with the East European countries, remembering that each of them has a distinct history and tradition and a particular contribution to make. This is the stuff of steady, unspectacular diplomacy, not political theatre. There will be a place for summits between the leaders of East and West but they must not be seen as a substitute for

In the ninth of our series marking 35 years of Nato, Margaret Thatcher outlines her vision of the way ahead for the West

daily, undramatic contact, nor are they an end in themselves. East-West relations require time and patience if they are to be soundly built. Summits are usually the keystone, not the foundation.

It is only 16 years until the year 2000. There is much to do if we are to begin the new century and the new millennium with hope and confidence.



We in Western Europe believe passionately in our democratic way of life, and we are determined to defend it. But we also believe in working to reduce the artificial barriers that divide the two halves of our continent. European stability must not for ever rest uneasily on the frozen postures of confrontation. That is why arms control is a Western priority. We want to reduce the number of weapons and the money spent on them. The question is whether the Russians want to do so too. There are some grounds for optimism. The determined way in which the allies have reassessed themselves in the past four years will have done much to persuade the Soviet leaders that they cannot hope to secure unilateral political and military advantages by refusing to negotiate seriously with us. They know now that we will meet the challenge in whatever form it comes. That provides a strong incentive to talk.

A further incentive is provided by the facts of economic life. The Soviet economy is growing much more slowly than it was and may slow even more. New weapons cost huge sums to design and produce, sums which could be spent with much greater benefit on civilian development. As the Soviet leaders reflect on the high proportion of the national budget which is absorbed by military spending they may well be attracted by arms control agreements which promise to check these spiralling costs.

This does not mean that agreements will be easy to reach. Nor does it mean that the West will conclude agreements unless they are balanced and fair. No agreement is better than a bad agreement. Political factors also counsel realism. The prospects for progress may well be affected this year by a presidential election in the United States and a new leadership in Moscow. But if both sides display imagination, flexibility and political will, the second half of the 1980s may prove as fertile a time for genuine arms control agreements as the early 1980s was. Certainly the British Government will be doing what it can to make it so.

The events of the past four years have not only led us to review the management of East-West relations. They have prompted us to think hard about the management of the Western alliance too.

Its enduring success is a monument to those who founded it 35 years ago. Their shared experience

of one war determined them to band together to try to prevent another. That remains our overriding priority. Their chosen instrument was an alliance in which all were committed to the defence of each. Our commitment remains the same. Indeed, as defence technology becomes steadily more complex and more expensive, the concept of common defence enshrined in the North Atlantic Treaty is as relevant as it has ever been.

The value of the alliance does not change but the world around it does. The challenge confronting us is to ensure that the alliance adapts successfully to those changes. Some are integral to the defence debate itself.

● We must look hard at the resources the members of the alliance allocate to defence. Are we getting good value for money? How can we tackle the difficulties over weapons standardization?

● We must consider the role of conventional weapons in Nato's strategy. Will technological developments make it possible to rely more on them and less on nuclear weapons? What would be the financial implications of any shift in emphasis?

● We must think now about the implications of weapons in space. The concepts and the weapons themselves may still seem largely theoretical, but the speed of technological development means that they could soon be with us.

● We must also insist on the effective verification of arms control agreements. Mere declarations of intent are not enough. Success in the current negotiations for a total ban on chemical weapons, a high priority for the Government, would be an important demonstration of this principle.

The alliance must adapt to a changing political landscape too:

● As well as a military strategy towards the Soviet Union, if East-West relations are to improve and develop, the members of the alliance must be united in their aims and coordinated in their actions.

● As part of this political strategy we must decide how best to handle East-West economic relations. This is a particularly difficult issue. Somehow we must agree on where to draw the line between strategic and non-strategic goods.

● In the next few years many of the problems for Western interests are likely to arise outside the Nato area. We must be ready to respond to these together. Close consultation is essential.

● We must remember that we ourselves are changing and not to take each other for granted. We must work at our friendship, reinforcing old links and forging new.

These are some of the issues confronting Nato which its new Secretary-General and my old friend and colleague Lord Carrington will be tackling in the months and years ahead. It is a formidable agenda. But the alliance will rise to it, just as it has risen to meet the challenges of the past 35 years. We shall not always agree on everything; we never have. That is inevitable in an association of free nations, and no cause for shame or recrimination. But where there is, and will be, no dispute is about our enduring commitment to shared democratic values, and to their common defence. We know they are a priceless asset; and we know that Nato is the guarantee that we shall be able to pass them on to those who follow us.

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Ferdinand Mount

The unsocial art of writing

Most authors are better read and not heard, and certainly not seen. The typical writer stumbles, pale and blinking, into the limelight; his tie is adrift; he is carrying an untidy pile of books and papers; he does not know where to put his hands; above all, he does not know what to say. "An author," as Hazlitt pointed out, "is bound to write: it is his trade. But I do not see that he is bound to talk better than other people. Reading, study, silence, thought, are a bad introduction to loquacity. It would sooner be learnt of chambermaids and tapsters."

Yet the clamour for authors to appear in person grows at festivals, in workshops, on university campuses, at polytechnics, in libraries, theatre foyers, bookshops and lecture halls. Grants, fellowships, expense, board and lodging are held out as a bait to lure him from his study and, what's more, at the taxpayer's expense.

For this is all an indispensable part of "promoting literature". Unless you have seen Shelley plain, you have not really had Shelley properly; he must be wheeled round "the regions"; he must be on hand to answer readers' queries, encourage their own creative efforts and generally let them have the benefit of his charisma. Only then is Shelley to receive the Arts Council cheque, because, in the view of Sir Roy Shaw, the last secretary-general of the council, "Our first duty was to the public, and to the artist in so far as he/she served the public well."

It is no accident that the fiercest row yet about public subsidy to the arts should have blown up over the literary side of the Arts Council. For in literature, there is no troupe of public performers to be fed and watered; the nearest thing is the publisher of books and magazines, who accordingly receives the lion's share of the subsidy to literature.

Writing is a silent and solitary activity which does not translate easily into social benefaction. And that I suppose is why, when the Arts Council meets on Wednesday, the economy which it is thought most likely to make is the winding up of the literature panel.

What writers need is cash, without strings; they can offer the taxpayer no guarantee of any visible return; they may spend the lot on drink or travel; they may never write another line worth reading. And the Arts Council's annual report and accounts will be loath to include items such as: "X. Trapnell has recently paid his bill at the Coach and Horses"; or "Alroy Kear spent a most agreeable winter in Marrakesh."

What the regional arts liaison officer wants to be able to report is something on the lines of "Among speakers at the Batley and Morley

Festival were Mr X. Trapnell and Mr Alroy Kear, who chaired a seminar on the Mediatory Function of the Creative Artist in Society." Supper must be sung for.

The trouble is that the Arts Council cannot help being imbued by this social purpose in dealing with every art. "Public subsidy of the arts," Sir Roy tells us, "was introduced mainly because the arts made an indispensable contribution to the spirit of the nation in fighting the Nazis."

Even those of us who were babes in arms at the time remember how the Eighth Army went into action shouting, "Cry God for Horzion, England and Cyril Connolly!" These days, Sir Roy says, the arts "can contribute even more to the economic struggle."

Well, the Arts Council has not done so badly so far - from a grant of less than £2m 25 years ago to £92m this year. And among those who have done nicely out of it are The Cheek by Jowl Theatre Company, Eastern Approaches Soapbox Theatre, The Belt and Braces Road Show, The Paisley By Dance Theatre, Whisper and Sigh Theatre, Theatre Cwylwy, Outrigger, Women for Life on Earth, and so on, and very enjoyably on.

It should be said that most of the grants are modest enough, and presumably they give pleasure to their recipients, who are thereby enabled to keep on doing what they like doing best - which is more than can be said for the much larger sums which the Government hands out to preserve jobs in industries whose workers have long since lost interest or hope.

But inevitably, the tendency is to encourage those groups which believe that art has a social mission, as opposed to those individuals who do not. The tendency is not only social but socialist; that is in the nature of government subsidy.

This tendency is reinforced by the groovy bureaucratic interest represented by the "arts industry": the Arts Council alone employs 250 people, the Scottish Arts Council another 80 or so, the Welsh Arts Council a further 60-odd. These are permanent jobs with pensions, not the fleeting bursaries or grants which may fall to the lucky writer or composer. If performance seems to come before creation, administration seems to come before either.

If I were running the Arts Council, I would move out of 105 Piccadilly and cut the staff in half before I would dream of abolishing the grant to the English Stage Company (apparently one option for next Wednesday's agenda). For as often as not, the English Stage Company's work at the Royal Court Theatre passes the ultimate test, which is not "does it do good?" but "is it any good?"

Anne Sofer

Schools, take this idea on board

How the shades of Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, founders of the Dartington Community, must have been wincing and shuddering last week! What has all that lavish PR, complete with banquet and the glamorous protest of the flamboyant Mrs Blackshaw, to do with their great dream of progressive education? Had the glorious vision come to this? No, I have never been to Dartington and have no connection with the place, but I know enough people who have, and who talk of its very special atmosphere, to feel sad.

Dartington has been, ever since it was founded, the symbol of the way-out progressive school the press has loved to hate. Free love, pot smoking, lawlessness and scandal are its superb copy. The school's most successful head have been those who have pulled it back out of the public eye, quietly stopped the nonsense, and concentrated on the more serious ideals of the founders.

Such, for instance, were the Childs (husband and wife) who started their joint headship in the 1950s with a hotly contested new rule: "No naked bathing except before breakfast." (The exception was a concession intended to separate the genuine communicant with nature from exhibitionists and voyeurs.)

They then went on to run the school (or so it was described to me) as a family should be run: with the emphasis on good relationships and the nurturing of talent and independence. The art, music and drama were excellent, the academic side more than competent, and surrounding it all was space, beauty, time and freedom: Dartington is, after all, one of the most beautiful places in Britain.

And who can disagree that? Indeed, some of the wilder and more impracticable manifestations of total permissiveness (always a blind alley), much of what the progressive pioneers stood for has now been incorporated into mainstream educational thinking. Sober school inspectors, and even concerned industrialists, worry publicly over what have been long-standing preoccupations of the progressive movement: How can we get away from all that passive rote-learning and note-taking? What can we do to encourage creativity? Are children being given enough chance to participate in decisions?

Even the more trivial of practices regarded as outrageous in the 1930s have now become commonplace, although the media appears not to have noticed it. "It might seem like a teenager's dream," the BBC special reporter hyped, "no caning, no uniforms, teachers on Christian-name terms..." So what's so special? Must have been the reaction of many teenagers in the real world.

What is disappointing is that though there has been a degree of convergence of philosophy between the progressive schools and the state sector, the institutions themselves still operate in separate worlds. When one looks at the history of some of the independent pioneers it seems to follow a pattern. First there is innovation; then, during a period of modification, there is wider influence; and then - when it would seem as if the time was ripe to merge with and enrich the mainstream - there is a drifting off into a backwater. Dartington, to do it justice, did make an attempt in the 1970s to collaborate with the state sector. It flourished, but that is no reason not to try again.

Visiting Israel last year, I was struck by the discovery that no less than one quarter of 14 to 18-year-olds attend boarding schools, known as "children's villages". Since the bulk of this is state-supported, I queried such an expensive priority. The official educational justification offered to me had elements of the Dartington philosophy, as well as that of Gordonstoun and the Kibbutz movement: the importance of learning to live in a community, the opportunity to develop individual skills, and the need of many adolescents to get away from home, at least for a while.

We are a richer country than Israel, but we offer less. Only some 5 per cent of British teenagers get such a chance - and by and large they have to be either very rich or seriously maladjusted. All that the vast majority get is a week or two's travel or field trip in the whole of their school career. And this is often the part of their education that they remember best.

So I would want to put a question to the ghosts of the founders of progressive education. If they were alive today, would they want their institutions to be functioning without or without the state system? Would they want the heirs to their vision to be scrambling and jostling in the exclusive marketplace of a few who can afford £5,000 a year? Or would they want to give what they have to offer - that space, beauty, time and freedom - to the teenage population at large?

There is one good thing about that question. It does not have to be answered in a hurry, so the ghosts can take their time. No local education authority has enough cash to contemplate such ventures at present. But it would be nice to think that some people, on either side of the great divide and, preferably on both, are thinking about the possibilities, in readiness for happier times.

The author is the SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

How babies can beat the Big Six

Caroline Moorehead in a new drive to immunize Third World children

What may turn out to be a real move towards immunizing the world's babies, now dying at the rate of some 40,000 a day in the developing countries from malnutrition, dehydration and disease, was launched at a little publicized meeting of major aid agencies, held at Bellagio in northern Italy earlier this month. James Grant, the enthusiastic director general of Unicef, one of the main instigators of the meeting, believes that a commitment has finally been made to the idea of raising the \$5 to \$10 per child - \$500m annually - needed to protect babies against the "big six" - measles, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, tuberculosis and polio.

There is other progress, of a long-awaited sort. Grant explains: "We think that, within five years, there will be immunization at least against malaria, the seventh major killer, and the possibility of reducing the actual number of inoculations now given for polio from three to two."

At present, in the developing countries, where such programmes exist, approximately 70 per cent of babies are brought in for a first inoculation. Some 20 per cent drop off at each subsequent visit. Since measles comes with the third, only 30 per cent of babies are getting it. Immunization was one of the four prongs of the "child survival revolution" announced by Grant 16 months ago. Progress on the other three - oral rehydration therapy (a simple pack of salts, that is among the most significant medical breakthroughs this century), breast feeding and the use of charts to monitor children's progress - is, says Grant, encouraging. Reports are now reaching him that suggest an acceptance of his scheme that goes far beyond token gestures. Individual organizations, like the Red Cross, have thrown themselves behind it, while in Brazil a conference of 3,000 paediatricians has just endorsed Grant's ideas. From Bogota comes a report of how such a commitment, once explored, can produce remarkable results: premature babies are being kept alive not in incubators and fed through gastric tubes, but strapped to their mothers' breasts 24 hours a day for the first 12 days where they



Babies are strapped to their mothers' breasts for the first 12 days

find the warmth and food they need. Half these babies, weighing 1.1 to 2.2 lbs. used to survive, now nine out of ten stay alive.

The World Bank this week declared that Chad, Ethiopia, Upper Volta and Mozambique were all in peril of imminent economic collapse. How does Grant reconcile the saving of children's lives with the knowledge that the future, for those he saves, may be extremely bleak? If the world community were able to implement the child survival revolution we could expect not an aggravation of the population explosion, but an easing of it. Families will reduce birthrates when

they are confident that their children won't die.

"The problem is that in the past, measures of survival have been in the hands of governments - new vaccines, the prevention of famine - which have inspired little confidence. Our child revolution reverses this: it returns to families the ability to save their own children, by giving them the salt treatment or monitoring their growth. They can actually see them surviving."

Aid agencies cannot stick too long to single themes, without forfeiting the world's attention. Grant's current interest lies in promoting a swing away from GNP Gross National Product as indicators of a

country's development and towards Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and he is now carrying Unicef's projects towards these countries where GNP is absurdly out of proportion with IMR. This new way of viewing progress throws up exaggerated anomalies: Saudi Arabia, with a GNP per capita of \$12,600 has an IMR of 110 per thousand; America with a similar GNP, an IMR of only 12. Algeria, Grant's most recent port of call, has a GNP of \$2140 per capita but it is losing, he says, "small children at the rate of 120,000 each year, 40,000 from dehydration, 30,000 from diseases for which immunization exists."

Unicef's budget is small - \$350m this year and under threat from its biggest donor, the US, where Reagan's administration has constantly tried to reduce its allocation. Its role, Grant believes, "can only be catalytic if any child at all is to be saved." By nature "a man who never stops running" he is, say admiring colleagues, a moral crusader.

With the zeal comes seeming optimism. Grant appears to be a man who can turn even the global recession into a positive achievement. It served, he says, to alert people to the need for greater primary health care, to the importance of breast milk and to a realization that help for the world's babies must come not from more hospitals and expensive medicine but out of communities, common sense and families.

Grant has energy and apparently limitless commitment. With the mechanics of his child survival revolution sorted out, with immunization agreed to, and with the recession making new priorities imperative, he intends now to turn to pushing a new philosophy. "The world has a code of ethics for dealing with the 'low emergencies' - the major disasters. What we need now is a new world ethic for dealing with the 'silent ones' - those that kill the equivalent of all the children under five in the United States every year. We think we've proof that it's perfectly possible for any country to at least halve this death rate in eight to ten years, perhaps even five. It has to become politically and morally inexcusable not to do so."



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JOURNEY TO JORDAN

In accepting an invitation to Jordan, the Queen will have been well aware that she would be flying to a region full of controversy and danger. That there is physical danger was dramatically illustrated by Saturday's explosion in Amman, but it should not be exaggerated. Jordan has been an island of stability in the Middle East for twelve years now; its security forces are almost proverbially efficient, and British security officials have long experience of cooperating with them. To cancel the visit at this stage would have been a damaging blow to King Hussein's prestige, and a damaging victory for terrorism. Ministers were right to let the visit go ahead.

But no one, and certainly not a head of state, can touch any point in the Arab-Israeli conflict without getting involved in some degree of controversy, so passionate are the feelings it arouses. Jordan is a party to that conflict, and still technically at war, even though it is years since its armed forces fired a shot against any Israeli target. Some of the Queen's subjects feel a strong attachment to the other party. Since Britain is neutral in the conflict, that does not imply any disloyalty to the Queen or what she stands for. It does lead them to feel aggrieved that Jordan receives a state visit from her - perhaps the strongest official symbol of friendship Britain can offer - while similar marks of friendship are denied to Israel.

President Herzog of Israel, who will be visiting Britain next week, has said that he will invite the Queen to visit Israel. It would certainly be discourteous and wrong to refuse such an invitation outright. The proper diplomatic course, which will no doubt be adopted, is to accept it in principle while leaving the date open. The timing of royal visits is always a complicated matter, subject to political and other considerations. It has taken the Queen nearly eighteen years to reciprocate the state visit paid her by King Hussein in 1966, though his invitation was proffered and accepted in principle on the spot, as protocol dictates.

What has made it politically possible, and even desirable, for the Queen to visit Jordan now is that King Hussein has long been seen by the British Government, and indeed by the world in general, as a man genuinely anxious to resolve the conflict by

peaceful means. He has long since recognized the right of Israel to live in peace within the borders of June 5, 1967, and Jordan is not occupying any territory seized from anybody else or regarded internationally as rightfully belonging to anybody else. A visit to Israel while it is still occupying Arab lands would necessarily be much more controversial. It is something which can, and should, be undertaken by political leaders such as President Mitterrand - and why not Mrs Thatcher? - who can argue the case, publicly and privately, with their Israeli counterparts, but in which it would not be right to involve a non-political head of state.

Often a controversial figure within the Arab world, King Hussein has generally enjoyed something close to a consensus of support among Western governments. The United States Government, in particular, has frequently referred to him as a friend. It has been all the more wounded by the blistering attack on its policies which he suddenly launched in an interview with the *New York Times* the week before last. The King, who in the past has set much store by American mediation efforts in the conflict with Israel, now says that America's blatant partisanship on the Israeli side deprives such efforts of any credibility. On the American side it is felt that the King himself, by his constant avoidance of a direct negotiation with Israel over the future of the West Bank, has incurred a large share of responsibility for the failure of American efforts, from Camp David to the Reagan Plan, to achieve progress on the Palestinian issue.

The Queen's visit, announced last autumn, was not, of course, intended to denote any taking of sides by Britain in this quarrel between two friendly governments. But it is no secret that British officials and ministers do have much sympathy with the King's position. They are more sensitive, perhaps, than their American colleagues to the dangers he is exposed to within the Arab world, and more understanding of his anxiety to associate the Palestine Liberation Organization, or at least Mr Arafat's wing of it, with any initiative he takes on the Palestinian problem. They share his frustration at America's inability (or unwillingness) to halt the Israeli colonization of the West Bank, or even to persuade Israel to allow West Bank representa-

tives to attend a session of the Palestine National Council, where their presence might provide Mr Arafat with the support he needs for a policy of whole-hearted cooperation with the King. They also understand, no doubt, the King's unspoken dismay at the recent display of Western weakness in Lebanon - even though they themselves have some share of responsibility for it - and his need, in the light of that Syrian triumph, to reduce his own exposure to Syrian wrath.

All of that is understandable, but it does not point in any positive direction. Indeed, the King himself seems to have realized that he has nothing to gain from quarrelling with the Reagan Administration for he has now partly it is said on Egyptian advice, changed the tone of his remarks and absolved President Reagan of any personal responsibility in the matter. The present contest between Senator Hart and Mr Mondale for the Jewish vote in New York and California, with each vying to prove himself more uncritically pro-Israel than the other, serves as a reminder to all Arab leaders that it is unrealistic to expect any significant change in American policy on this point. Whether or not it could do so - the point is controversial but also academic - the United States will not force Israel to make concessions to the Arabs. The only hope lies in a change of policy, probably involving a change of government, in Israel itself.

A change of government in Israel is now quite possible, perhaps even likely, by the end of the year. There will be an election either in the summer or in the autumn (and the idea of synchronizing Israeli and US elections, thereby freeing three out of every four years for serious Middle East diplomacy, would have a lot to be said for it). The idea of negotiating with Jordan and making concessions in the West Bank will certainly be an important election issue. How important, and with what result, will depend largely on Israeli perceptions of Jordan's willingness to negotiate; and it is no good expecting the present Israeli Government, which is against any concessions to Jordan, to make it easier for the King to impress Israeli public opinion. The King, with or without Mr Arafat, can have a major impact on the Israeli election campaign. But only he can make the hard decisions involved.

MISS TISDALL'S CASE

The sentence of six months' imprisonment on Miss Sarah Tisdall for sending copies of two secret papers from the Foreign Secretary's office to *The Guardian* has been bitterly assailed as both harsh and tyrannical, as though the length of the sentence and the propriety of bringing this particular prosecution are inter-related. In fact, they should be considered quite separately. Whether or not the sentence was, or was not, too harsh in the circumstances of this particular case is a question that can only be answered by reference to the criterion by which Mr Justice Cantley declared himself to be acting.

"Unfortunately in these days it is necessary to make perfectly clear by example that any person in contact with material classified as secret, and who presumes to give himself permission to decide to publish, will not escape a custodial sentence," said the judge, however honestly that person thought it would do no harm. The first question then, is whether a sentence of six months in this particular offender in these particular circumstances was necessary to set the example he judge wished to set, and it is hard to think that it was.

For a girl of Miss Tisdall's sort, acting naively in what she judged to be the public interest in her personal opinion, it is a lesser custodial sentence would surely have sufficed, on this occasion, to make the point. Even a few nights in prison would, for most girls of her kind, have been sufficiently horrifying to act as a deterrent against any temptation to act in a similar way. If the judge had sentenced Miss Tisdall to a month's imprisonment, with strict warning that heavier sentences could be expected by anyone else who acted as she had done, that would almost certainly have been sufficient to meet his own purpose of setting an example.

Moreover, that degree of enmity could well have been indicated by his own very opposite observation that it was unfortunately necessary "in these days" to set an example.

Disloyalty to institutions and bodies to which loyalty has been explicitly or implicitly given is something of a fashion of the time, and it is too often justified by reference to a higher good to be determined by the individual's conscience. So paramount is this alleged appeal to conscience that the betrayed seem to be allowed almost no right to complain or demand redress. Miss Tisdall, as the judge himself half hinted, is something of a victim of the climate of her time, and for that reason a lesser sentence would probably have sufficed as well as six months to indicate that it is a climate that has to be changed.

As it is, the length of the sentence, to which such epithets as "savage" have been freely attached, has been exploited to give a colour of false justification to the propositions that there should have been no prosecution at all, or at least no custodial sentence.

In all the circumstances of the case, nobody of any sensitivity can contemplate without unease the length of time she is due to spend in prison. Yet this in no way supports the argument that the prosecution should not have been brought, or that *The Guardian*, not Miss Tisdall, is really to blame and should have been prosecuted if anyone was. It is the business of a newspaper to publish as much as it can, subject to its own judgment of the public interest, and *The Guardian* accordingly published one of the documents it received from the post, source unknown, and suppressed and destroyed the other, apparently on some kind of security judgment. But it is not the business of a junior clerk in the Foreign Secretary's private office to take it upon herself, or himself, the responsibility for de-classifying a document classified as "secret" in the light of whether or not she, or he, believed that its publication would do no harm.

Calling in aid the case for rationalizing the Official Secrets Act is beside the point. Even if Section 2 of the Act (with its wide embrace) were replaced by

something else, the probability is that a document of this sort, concerning the time of arrival of the first cruise missiles at Greenham Common, and another document which *The Guardian* itself thought it wrong to publish, would have remained within a "secret" classification of some sort. What Miss Tisdall was engaged in was an exercise in personal de-classification to which she had no right and no competence to undertake.

The argument that this was a conflict of loyalties between her duty to her service and her duty to her conscience and that in choosing the latter she should be exempt from punishment is to miss the point. There must be occasions, under tyranny, when conscience demands disobedience and disloyalty but then, precisely because it is a tyranny, the consequences are understood and faced. This is not a tyranny, and yet the climate of opinion is too inclined to excuse breaches of trust as carrying no penalties. This cannot be so, certainly not where security is concerned.

Still more objectionable is the outcry after the case that the Attorney-General had no business to prosecute. In an emotional leader on Saturday, *The Guardian* declared that "the climate of repression has grown chillier and chillier week by week" and complained about Whitehall paranoia about leaking. By the tone of its leading article, *The Guardian* managed to convey the subliminal impression that it envisaged the Government as somehow up on the bench alongside the judge. Appealing for Miss Tisdall, it even managed to drag in the fact that she was younger than Mrs Thatcher's children, as though this had relevance to the case. This kind of special pleading only discredits the argument. There is a difference between ordinary leaks and purloined papers, particularly when the purloined papers relate to security. Sympathy with Miss Tisdall, misled by the climate in which she lives, is not helped by the kind of arguments that have been produced to excuse her and condemn the Government.

'Brutal and clumsy' Second thoughts needed on Data Bill

system of justice

From the Director of the Howard League for Penal Reform

Sir, The departure of Sarah Tisdall to Holloway prison on Friday after the passing of the Data Protection Bill, and to meet requirements of the Council of Europe Convention and the OECD guidelines. Furthermore, in the words of the Lord Chancellor when introducing the first Bill in January of last year, "it is designed to insure against the public disquiet at some of the possibilities of these in the hands of potential owners of data banks, including, of course, the Government themselves."

I am concerned that, as it stands, it will not allow public disquiet in some very significant areas. Clause 28 of the Bill sets out exemptions from the data protection provisions in respect of personal data held for the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the assessment or collection of any tax or duty, in any case in which the application of the provisions "would be likely to prejudice" any of these matters.

Leaving aside the question as to who decides when prejudice is likely, the clause appears to mean that, for example, at the request of the police officer seeking access to a patient's medical records, or an official of the Customs and Excise or of the Inland Revenue seeking access to personal financial details, the main provisions of the Bill may be set aside with impunity.

Clause 28 as it stands will mean that, in spite of there being a Data Protection Act, the public will remain unaware of the existence of significant computerised information systems handling personal data, and that data subjects will be denied access to records held on them, whether they have been obtained fairly and lawfully or not, and whether they are correct or not.

Two of the principal protective procedures in the Bill are those relating to subject access (the entitlement of an individual to ascertain whether his details are held, and to have access to them and have them corrected or erased in appropriate circumstances) and to what is called non-disclosure (the undertaking by the data user not to disclose data to persons not described in his registration entry).

Clause 28 will also create what has been described as a fraud upon the public. In respect of non-disclosure, the unamended Bill will condone secret disclosures in contravention of a public undertaking in statutory form.

The intention of data protection legislation should be to create an information regime, open to all (with the single, significant exception of the area of national security). Clause 28 deliberately flouts this intention and in so doing drastically reduces the degree of reassurance and protection which is offered to the public.

Industry, commerce and Government, national and local, are to be required to devote resources to conforming with legislation which will be fatally flawed. It is to be hoped that, even at this late stage, Home Office ministers will accept the need for amendments.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN LINDOP,
36 Queen's Road,
Hertford,
Hertfordshire.
March 22.

Science in touch with Poland

From Mr Ronald L. Crawford

Sir, One of the least published aspects of the troubles in Poland and one that has little to do with political considerations is the tragic plight of research scientists who, because of the dearth of hard currency, are now denied access to the leading Western journals in their disciplines.

Especially in medicine, all branches of engineering and applied science, high technology subjects such as electronics and computing, and in "new" areas like biotechnology and information technology academic institutions in Poland have suffered losses of up to 90 per cent and more in terms of cancelled subscriptions. To an active researcher this is a disastrous situation.

The British Council in Warsaw is manifestly striving to help overcome part of the problem through its computer terminal access to the Blaise, Lockheed Dialog and Pergamon infoline online information services. As every librarian knows, however, browsing in such electronic media - the stuff of bibliographic reference - is notoriously expensive. There is no real substitute, therefore, for continued access to the printed word.

For many years the University of Strathclyde has enjoyed the most profound formal link of any between a British and a Polish university - in our case with the Technical University of Lodz whose (elected) rector is a graduate of Leeds.

Over the past year, through the medium of our Lodz contacts and with the active help of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, I have been able to collect donations of scientific journals and forward them at little or no cost to a number of universities in Poland.

The British Council has invited me to take on the formidable task of extending these modest arrangements to embrace all eight Scottish universities (six of which have, to a greater or lesser extent, ties with Polish institutions) and, with the encouragement and backing of the Scottish principals, I have accepted the challenge.

May I therefore, through your columns, invite those of your readers who are in regular receipt of scientific journals to contact me with a view to offering recent back numbers for this worthy cause? It is also possible that publishers may wish to embrace all eight Scottish universities in Poland; that would be the finest gesture of all.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD L. CRAWFORD,
Academic Registrar,
University of Strathclyde,
McCauley Building,
16 Richmond Street,
Glasgow.
March 20.

Church and remarriage

From the Chancellor of the Diocese of Exeter

Sir, The history of our marriage discipline by the Vicar of Great St Mary's (March 14) is balanced and accurate more so than that of Chancellor Garth Moore (March 1), who overstated the Church of England's commitment to indissolubility. But Mr Mayne's conclusion does not follow from his historical and theological premises.

The Church of England can comprehend those who hold differing views about remarriage ("dissolubilists" and "indissolubilists") so long as it gives no formal countenance to remarriage in church - a restriction which dissolubilists can regard as a concession to the conscience of the others, with civil marriage as a cross to be borne by those who would prefer to go to church.

But once remarriage in church becomes encouraged by the hierarchy and the General Synod, indissolubilists find themselves in direct conflict with the practice of their church, and the liberty of theological opinion which has existed until now is, to that extent, removed.

In this, as in other matters, Mr Mayne's "more liberal approach" is very illiberal.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN THURMER,
6 The Close,
Exeter,
Devon.
March 14.

Wasting asset

From Dr Peter Smith

Sir, As someone who is retiring a little early - and thereby, I am assured, helping the institution in which I work to avoid compulsory redundancies - I find that I resent being described as "natural wastage".

Yours faithfully,
PETER SMITH,
18 Hall Rise,
Faxby,
York.
March 18.

Ringside views

From Mr John E. Brown

Sir, Mr A. S. Graham is mistaken (March 17) in thinking that anyone who dared to tell Henry Cooper that his brain is damaged should be ready to duck.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr Cooper and I am confident that his response would almost certainly be, "Yeah? Quite likely, quite likely!" (Mr Cooper has the engaging habit of repeating himself, just like another bonny fighter, Montgomery of Alamein).

Sincerely,
JOHN E. BROWN,
22a Sewell House,
Belmont Road,
Wincoburn,
Avon.
March 17.

Secret postal ballots

From Mr Stephen Cottingham

Sir, The refusal of the miners' union executive to hold a strike ballot and the disruption to fellow workers next Wednesday by the political strike of London's bus and Tube drivers, again without an individual vote, must surely strengthen the case for the Trade Union Bill being debated in the House of Commons on Monday.

Is it therefore another example of this Government losing its grip that it has allowed the most significant reform of all - the mandatory secret postal ballot - to be dropped from its proposals? As Frank Chapple, of the clericalists' union, has stated, the alternative workplace ballots "are too easily open to intimidation of the voters, to improper use of discarded ballot papers, to phoney returns and a variety of other illicit behaviour."

The Government has already promised the cash to cover the cost of this reform and other moderate leaders, such as Terry Duffy, should have their hands strengthened by firm legislation to give all union members the right to vote in the privacy of their own homes.

Unions who do not know their members' names and addresses really should not claim to represent them and in a computer age updating central records should present no problem.

Why is the Government frightened of this essential measure? Is it that they prefer unions to continue to be held up as a bad example? Don't they read their own manifestos?

It will be a strange thing if it is left to the great unelected in the House of Lords to strike a blow for democracy by insisting on secret postal ballots as the most meaningful reform of all.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN COTTINGHAM,
(National Treasurer, Association of Social Democratic Trade Unionists),
9 Titchborne Place,
Aldershot, Hampshire.
March 22.

Cost of policing pits

From Mr P. F. Ryder

Sir, One lesson to be learned from the present miners' dispute is that the Government's employment legislation was less well thought out than it might have been.

The courts have ruled that the "Customs said that the term "construction" included a major reconstruction. The application of the 50 per cent rule meant that charitable housing associations which improved decaying inner-city housing for sale could recover the input tax on the total cost of the building operation.

The abolition of the rule will make such operations uneconomic and lead to a further decay of inner city areas.

The abolition of the rule and the relief for alteration will also mean that the cost of the reconstruction of fire-damaged buildings will be increased by 15 per cent unless the

buildings are completely demolished. On a number of occasions a building may be almost totally destroyed but still have the outer walls intact.

These could well be the subject of a preservation order if the building was listed. The unfortunate owner will not then be able to demolish the building completely, even if he wished to perpetrate such an act of vandalism, and so will be unable to avoid the increased cost.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MAINPRICE,
Vatux House,
11 West Halkin Street,
London SW1.
March 20.

Patients' consent

From Mrs Diana Brahmans

Sir, I find no difficulty in reconciling the judgment of Dunn LJ with that of the Master of the Rolls and Browne-Wilkinson LJ (letter, March 19). However, I have the advantage of a full transcript of the judgment. What Dunn LJ said was:

"The first argument was that unless the patient's consent to the operation was a fully informed consent the performance of the operation would constitute a battery on the patient by the surgeon. This is not the law of England. If there is consent to the nature of the act, then there is no trespass to the person."

In other words, if a patient, as in *Sidaway*, consented to undergo an operation on the cervical spine, but the doctor did not inform her of a remote risk in accordance with generally accepted medical practice at the time (here in 1974), then she could not bring an action in battery or trespass to the person.

However, if a patient consents to an operation on his tonsils and instead a toe is amputated, then there would be an action in battery! The action for the patient in a case like *Sidaway* is said to lie in negligence if this can be proved on the balance of probabilities.

The Court of Appeal has laid down general principles with the stated aim of discouraging volume litigation against doctors, but also with the intention of laying down fair criteria to be applied, preparing apparently, to intervene if the doctors do not evolve proper professional standards. As the Master of the Rolls reassuringly stated, "Doctors will not be allowed to play God."

The test laid down by Sir John Donaldson is:

"The duty is fulfilled if the doctor acts in accordance with a practice rightly accepted as proper by a body of skilled and experienced medical men."

The added word, "rightly", is new, introduced by the Master of the Rolls as a safeguard from the possibility of doctors developing unacceptable practices, and so reserves the right of the court to interfere on behalf of the patient.

However clear and satisfactory guidelines may be, though, there is always great scope for disagreement in their application to individual cases in different circumstances. The Court of Appeal found that, on the facts, the surgeon had not been guilty of negligence towards Mrs *Sidaway*.

None the less, I would hope that greater public awareness and the wider guidelines will encourage doctors to be franker with their patients in the future.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BRAHMANS,
5 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
March 19.

VAT on building

From Mr H. H. Mainprice

Sir, Lord Rosebery is right to point out (March 20) that the removal of the zero-rating relief for alteration to buildings will encourage demolition at the expense of the improvement. He did not, however, mention the further proposal, namely that the 50 per cent rule for reconstructed buildings was also to go.

Under this rule the Customs treated as new buildings those which had been so substantially altered that the cost of putting up the altered building from scratch would have been less than twice the cost of the alteration.

From Mrs Diana Brahmans

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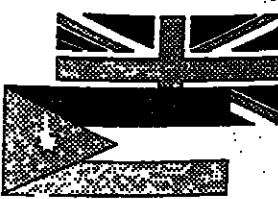
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Yours faithfully,
DIANA BRAHMANS,
5 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
March 19.

Jordan



Amidst exceptionally tight security, the Queen and Prince Philip arrive in Jordan

today on a five-day state visit. Their host is King Husain, who was crowned in the same year as the Queen. Christopher Walker reports from Amman on the king's role in the search for a Middle East peace settlement and on recent political changes

The Queen's visit to the small but strategically placed desert kingdom of Jordan comes at a time when King Husain is at the centre of efforts by "moderates" in the Arab world to outflank the rejectionist minority and break a dangerous stalemate in the Middle East peace process.

That the United States is in a presidential election year during which little in the way of pressure on Israel over such sensitive issues as Jewish settlements can be expected, means that these moves are something of a long-term gamble which is still in period of gestation.

King Husain's bitter frustration with the influence of the Jewish lobby in the U.S. emerged in a recent interview when he claimed that through one-sided support for Israel, America had lost its credibility as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

In recent weeks the problems facing Jordan have been further complicated by the deteriorating situation in the bloody Gulf war. As a close ally of Iraq, the Hashemite monarch is deeply concerned about the dangers which could face him and other conservative Arab rulers if the Muslim extremists led by the Ayatollah Khomeini were ever to win a decisive victory.

"It looks very much to me as if the Middle East may be in for a period of redrawing political, and perhaps physical, maps", explained one leading Jordanian policy maker. "The worst thing we can do is remain silent. We have to be seen to be positive and to be courageous, or we run the risk of being swept away by a tide of radicalism."

The personal and political dangers which the 48-year-old king faces as a result of his

stubborn determination to stand up to neighbouring Syria and to Libya - with which he recently broke off relations after the ransacking of Jordan's embassy in Tripoli - are clearly visible in the heavy security measures taken in Amman, previously the most relaxed capital in the Middle East.

These include armoured patrols of crack beduin troops elaborate anti-kamikaze bomb barriers outside many buildings (including the British Embassy) and strict search procedures on all flights by Alia, the national airline.

The measures have been further reinforced since this month's symbolic reconciliation between the king and Yasser Arafat, the leader of the dismembered Palestine Liberation Organization. The two men had failed to reach agreement last April after the Syrians and Libyans pressured the PLO chief not to sign a draft document which might have paved the way for eventual recognition of Israel and talks on the West Bank.

This year's initial five-day series of discussions has signalled a new era of cooperation in which the memories of Black September in 1970 - when the PLO were expelled by the Jordanian army - were erased, and replaced by a dialogue. The plan is to reach a common stand on the way of trying to solve the Palestinian problem and the future status of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, captured in 1967.

As a country whose estimated 2.4 million population is more than 60 per cent Palestinian, Jordan's future had long been inextricably bound up with that of the dispossessed Palestinians. This point is driven home by Israeli hawks such as the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, who



The search for peace in the Middle East - and the casualties of years of war. Above left: King Husain and the PLO leader Yasser Arafat, formerly enemies, meet in Amman in April last year for peace talks. Above right: an Italian soldier with residents of the Chatila refugee camp in West Beirut and (below) some of the thousands of Palestinian refugees in Jordan.



frequently uses the argument that "Jordan is Palestine" - with its convenient conclusion that an independent Palestinian state is therefore not required.

The demographic issue is by far and away the most sensitive in the country, and the outcome of the first Husain/Arafat meeting this month showed that key questions such as just who is going to speak for the Palestinians have at present been shelved, or perhaps not even discussed.

The final communiqué stuck rigidly to the 1974 Rabat Arab summit formula that the PLO is "the sole and legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people.

The PLO/Jordanian summit, which had the enthusiastic backing of President Mubarak of Egypt - another key figure in attempts to form a moderate Arab block which would also

include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and the Gulf States - took place against the unusual and encouraging backdrop of the first election campaign staged in Jordan since the West Bank was lost to Israeli armour nearly 17 years ago.

The occasion was by-elections for eight East Bank seats in the recently recalled parliament, left vacant by the deaths of deputies elected in the last general election in 1967. Diplomatic observers noted with satisfaction that, despite the absence of parties which were banned in 1957 when the monarchy was under serious threat, the campaign was one of the most open and genuinely democratic seen in the Arab world.

More than 100 candidates competed for the eight seats on a bewildering variety of platforms including such openly

radical pledges to the electorate - which included women for the first time in Jordan's history - as "No to Camp David, No to Reagan, No to Israel", and "The PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people: I will never compromise on Jerusalem, the land and the people."

Among the key issues which emerged during the campaign was the demand for an early general election and for thorough-going amendments to the constitution to increase the East Bank representation in a parliament which at present consists of 30 deputies from each bank of the Jordan. Although Palestinians were eligible to stand for the vacant East Bank seats, in practice few chose to do so.

The by-elections resulted in a victory for three Muslim fundamentalist candidates, a trend

which was seen as worrying for the government.

The campaign (conducted with no restrictions but an order to candidates not to insult the monarchy nor to call for violent change) was seen by many observers as demonstrating the stability of the Hashemite regime. The king's earlier decision to recall the national assembly, which had been defunct since 1974, was taken as demonstrating both Jordan's continuing interest in the West Bank and its determination to get national institutions in order before the next stage in the peace process.

Another move was the appointment in January of a new look cabinet under the premiership of the able Ahmad Obeidat, former head of Jordan's ruthlessly efficient equivalent of MI5.







"There was a need for the country to get its own house in order and also to demonstrate to the PLO the possibility of another Palestinian forum if Mr Arafat was not going to make an effort to agree", said one Western diplomat. "Recalling the parliament combined them both and also had the advantage of being very popular. People here like politics and they felt deprived of it."

Unhappily for the king, who is regarded in both the West and East as one of the most astute, courageous and personable leaders in the region, the state opening of parliament had to be briefly postponed because of a bleeding stomach ulcer brought on by the strain of recent events and his own unrelenting work schedule.


Although a subsequent visit to the United States combined

successful medical treatment with an important three-way summit with Presidents Reagan and Mubarak, the suddenness of the illness alerted many Jordanians to the extent to which the stability, prosperity and relative sanity of their society is dependent on the personality of the man who has led them for 31 years - like the Queen, King Husain came to the throne in 1952 - and survived so many assassination attempts that he has lost count of them.

At a time of menacing outside pressure, personal strain and economic setbacks, the king is desperately looking for more indications of American willingness to put pressure on Israel than he has received so far, in public or private. It will be at least early 1985 before it becomes clear whether these are going to materialise.

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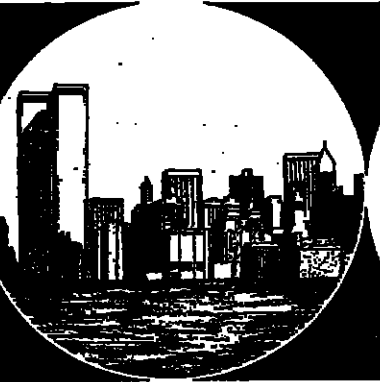

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The 'special relationship' that ties King Husain to Britain

If ever there was a "special relationship" between two countries of different language and culture, situated on different continents, it is surely that between the kingdoms of Great Britain and Jordan.

As a state and as a concept, Jordan is an almost purely British creation. There was, in early Muslim times, a "district of the Jordan" but this consisted of Galilee and the upper Jordan valley (mainly in what is now Israel). The greater part of present-day Jordan was in the separate "district of Palestine".

Much later, in 1918, the whole of this southern part of Syria fell into the hands of Great Britain. The British government had recently pledged itself to "favour the establishment in Palestine of a

national home for the Jewish people", and Jewish leaders of the time generally assumed that this "Palestine" comprised both banks of the Jordan. But in 1922 Britain created a separate Emirate of Transjordan in the territory east of the river and installed the Hashemite prince Abdallah (King Husain's grandfather) as its first Emir.

The British had good reason to favour the Hashemite dynasty. Abdallah's father, Sharif Husain of Mecca, had launched the Arab Revolt which helped Britain to defeat the Ottoman Empire; and his elder brother Faisal, a close friend of T. E. Lawrence, had commanded the Arab army.

Britain failed to give the Hashemites the larger independent Arab kingdom - comprising virtually the whole of the Fertile Crescent - which it had promised, but did its best to

make amends by installing Faisal as King of Iraq and Abdallah as Emir of Transjordan.

For the first 24 years of its existence, the new Emirate was formally the responsibility of Britain, by mandate of the League of Nations. Britain kept the final say in foreign affairs and a decisive influence over the treasury.

The army, known as the "Arab Legion", had British officers. Even after full independence in 1946, and after the annexation of the West Bank to form the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1950, Britain continued to pay for the armed forces, which were commanded by the legendary Glubb Pasha, and to provide economic aid under the terms of the Anglo-Jordan Alliance.

It was a natural choice, therefore, for the young Husain to be sent, first to Victoria College, the English-style public school in Alexandria, and then, when the assassination of his grandfather made him heir-apparent in 1951, to Harrow, in England itself. After ascending the throne in August 1952, Husain returned to England for a crash course at Sandhurst before his eighteenth birthday, when he assumed his full royal powers and went back to Amman for his coronation.

The new king was therefore well aware of the importance of the British connexion to his country. But, in his first years on the throne, he was also to find that this kind of post-colonial relationship was becoming an anachronism, and in some respects a liability for a ruler seeking to stay afloat in an Arab world increasingly dominated by nationalism. Naturally choosing friends and advisers of his own age, many of whom were themselves ardent nationalists, Husain found himself occasionally resentful of the somewhat paternalist British advice he received.

The conflict between Britain and President Nasser of Egypt increased the strain. Britain wanted Jordan to join the anti-communist Baghdad Pact, which Nasser vehemently denounced as an imperialist yoke for the Arab nation. In 1955 there were riots against the

pact in Amman, causing the government to fall and in 1956 the king bowed to nationalist pressure by dismissing Glubb, with the result that all the other British officers were withdrawn.

Anti-British feeling grew even stronger after the Suez expedition, and early in 1957 elections produced a left-leaning government which denounced the Treaty of Alliance with Britain and repudiated the British subsidy.

Husain soon dismissed this government, with the support of the army, but it was clear that the old type of dependence on Britain could not be revived. Britain itself, chastened by the Suez adventure, no longer aspired to the dominant role in the Middle East it had once played. Significantly, it was the United States which came to the rescue with a military and economic aid package to replace the British subsidy.

In 1958 British troops were flown in from Cyprus at the king's request, to deter any invasion by the Iraqi army which had just overthrown the regime of Husain's cousin, Faisal. But they remained only three months, until the immediate emergency had passed.

Twelve years later, when the kingdom was rocked by the civil war with the PLO, there was no question of British intervention. Instead, American and Israeli warnings checked a Syrian attempt to intervene on the PLO's side.

Yet Britain's relative detachment from the power politics of the region has probably made it easier to maintain cordial relations between the two countries. The Jordanian army continues to buy British when possible, and close links with the British armed forces continue at official and unofficial levels - the latter including

many lasting personal friendships. There are close ties too in civilian life.

This British connexion is actively encouraged by the king who, while he accepts that America is now a much more important power in the Middle East, still feels personally more at home in Britain and with British people. His second wife was an Englishwoman, Toni Gardiner, and several of his children have been educated, like himself, at English schools.

He keeps a house in London permanently staffed and makes several private visits here each year, usually dropping in for an informal chat with the prime minister and the foreign secretary of the day. His personal rapport with Mrs Thatcher is particularly close, cemented by the crucial support which Jordan gave to Britain in the UN Security Council after the

Argentine invasion of the Falklands, when the two leaders spoke personally on the telephone.

Despite these links, King Husain has made only one state visit to Britain, in 1966 - a visit which the Queen is now, somewhat belatedly, returning. On that occasion he revealed

what remains, perhaps, his strongest debt to Britain: when his aircraft was attacked by Syrian MiG fighters in 1958 it was his Scots flying instructor and co-pilot, Wing Commander Jack Daiglish, who saved his life.

Edward Mortimer



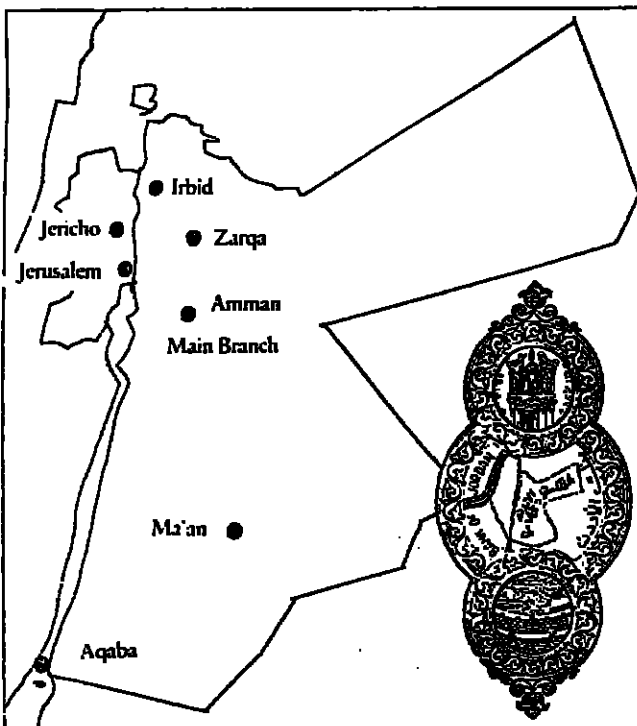
Arabian Night's ball. King Husain dancing at a Dorchester Hotel charity ball in 1952.



A soldier among soldiers. King Husain inspects a guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards in the courtyard of the Foreign Office, in 1983.



King Husain, his uniform partly drenched after riding in an open carriage from Victoria Station, with the Queen at Buckingham Palace during his 1966 state visit to Britain.



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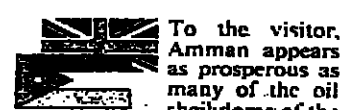


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The genius that transformed the economy



To the visitor, Amman appears as a city of the oil sheikdoms of the Gulf. Shops are overflowing with goods, impressive modern buildings abound, and new cars fill the streets. As Jordan has no oil of its own, and few other resources, its high living standards are perhaps surprising. It has many of the characteristics of a poor developing country, including a huge balance of trade deficit, with export receipts covering less than one quarter of import payments. Such a situation has driven many Third World states to economic ruin, but in Jordan the trade deficit is not even seen as a major problem.

King Husain's genius has been to turn an almost impossible political situation to economic advantage by securing massive financial assistance from his oil-rich neighbours, especially Saudi Arabia. As Jordan is the Arab state with the longest land frontier with Israel, and the largest Palestinian community, its Arab neighbours have felt a moral obligation to aid the Amman government through all difficulties.

At the same time King Husain has trod warily in inter-Arab disputes, particularly those involving his northern neighbour, Syria, and his eastern neighbour, Iraq. Despite all the machinations of inter-Arab politics, the king has managed to avoid alienating any significant aid donor. The Jordanian economy has never suffered for the sake of political manoeuvring, as is so often the case in Arab countries.

At first sight, the size of Jordan's outstanding external debt seems horrific. More than \$220m (£150m) is owed to Saudi Arabia alone, while \$150m had been borrowed from Kuwait. A further \$150m is outstanding to Arab aid agencies, and similar sums are owed to Western states, particularly the United States and West Germany.

Western aid has been less significant than Arab financial assistance in recent years, despite King Husain's pro-Western political stance, although the Reagan Administration has increased its funding in recognition of Jordan's crucial role in any Middle Eastern peace settlement.

As virtually all of this financial assistance to Jordan has been highly concessional, the central bank is fortunate in not having any major debt servicing problems. The debt outstanding to foreign commercial banks amounts to only \$100m, a relatively modest figure by Third World standards.

Prospects for the Jordanian economy appear more promising than at almost any time in the last 20 years. The inflationary pressures of the late 1970s have subsided due to cautious economic management, and the annual rise in wholesale prices is now a mere 3 per cent. The money supply is well under control, and the speculative rise in land prices has ended, although the construction sector continues to be buoyant.

At the same time the long term policy for economic diversification, which was the aim of both the 1976-80 development plan, and the 1981-85 plan, appears to be having some success.

Under the 1981-85 development plan a determined effort has been made to diversify Jordan's exports. The country's major export in the past has been phosphates. Jordan being the third largest supplier to the world market. Phosphate prices slumped in the mid-1970s, but have fared better in recent years, and production almost doubled between 1978 and 1983 as the Al-Abyad mine was opened up.

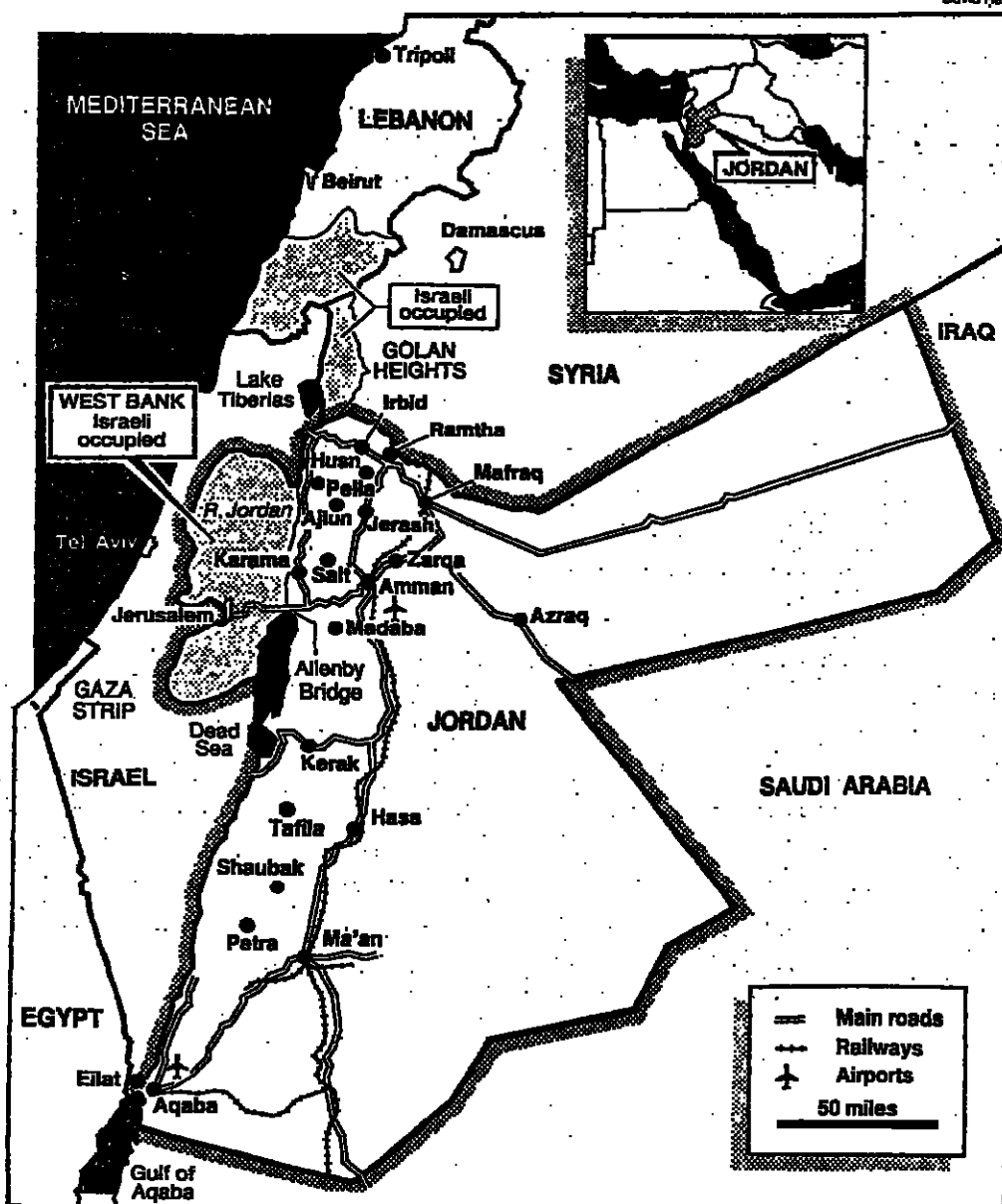
Nevertheless, to lessen dependence on raw phosphates, a fertilizer plant has been established at Aqaba to process phosphate rock. Fertilizer prices are more stable in world markets than those of raw phosphate, and the fertilizer production has meant more income and employment for the Jordanian economy.

Other mineral resources are also being developed, notably potash from the Dead Sea. Production of potash started in December 1982, and during 1983 over 250,000 tons were mined.

Jordan earns a considerable amount from its transit trade, as Aqaba has long served as a short cut from the West to Iraq, avoiding the long passage around the Arabian Peninsula to Basra. Since the Gulf War, as a result of the vulnerability of Basra to Iranian air attack, most of Iraq's imports have passed through Jordan.

Imports through Aqaba for Iraq grew from 3 million tons in 1980 to 8 million tons in 1982, although in recent months the trade has fallen with Iraq's forced curtailment of imports due to its own difficult economic situation. If the war ends, however, and Iraq starts a reconstruction programme, there is little doubt the port of Aqaba and Jordan's economy as a whole will benefit considerably.

In addition to acting as a transit route to the Gulf for other country's goods, Jordan also exports substantial quantities of its own agricultural produce to the Gulf. Due to the



success of the irrigation schemes in the Jordan Valley, the kingdom has a surplus of fruit and vegetables available for export.

The Jordan Valley Authority, which was modelled on the Tennessee Valley Authority, is responsible for all irrigation work and infrastructure. The major irrigation work, which involved the construction of the King Talal dam on the Zarqa River and the East Ghor canal, was completed in 1980. As a result, agricultural jobs were provided for almost 100,000 people, mainly Palestinian refugees.

Further employment could be provided if the proposed Maqarin dam on the Yarmouk River bordering with Syria was built. Unfortunately, as no agreement has been reached on the sharing of the resulting water with Syria, this project has been indefinitely postponed - which illustrates just how dependent Jordan's economy is on the actions of its neighbours.

Rodney Wilson

The author lectures on the economies of the Middle East at Durham University. His book, *Banking and Finance in the Arab Middle East*, was published by Macmillan last year.

Penelope Turing describes some of the tourist sites the Queen will be seeing.

Golden days in a desert kingdom

The Queen's visit to Jordan should focus attention in Britain on the great tourist potential of the desert kingdom. So far it has not achieved fashionable status in the world travel market, partly because the majority of European American holidaymakers know next to nothing about it, and partly because the whole Middle East is perpetually clouded in the public mind by political tensions.

Those who know and care enough about Jordan - genuine travellers as distinct from tourists, archaeologists and others with specific historical or Biblical interests - have long known it to be one of the most rewarding countries in an area where much of the world's culture and religious faith is rooted.

Like other visitors, the Queen will find a small country whose overall colouring is pale golden: undulating desert and bare, dramatic hills. Most newcomers are surprised by the arid beauty of this scenery, and the sharp

contrast of green valleys under bright sunlight.

There will be handsome, smiling faces, many of them young, for about half the population is under 15 years old. The smiles are not only for VIPs, one of Jordan's great tourist assets is the friendliness of the people, especially to the British. Most of them speak at least some English.

Before the 1967 war, during which Israel occupied the Jordanian West Bank territory and the old city of Jerusalem, all of which it still holds, Jordan's infant tourism industry was concentrated on the Holy Land sites. The East Bank places such as Amman itself and Jerash were optional extras,

and Petra a remote, fabled sort of Jordanian Shangri-La.

After 1967, without Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho, Jordan had to build its whole tourist structure anew.

Today the focal point is Amman, which has a new international airport 30 minutes' drive to the south, from where all parts of unoccupied East Bank Jordan are readily accessible.

It is possible - and included in a number of the organized package holidays - to cross the Jordan river into Israeli-occupied territory, make a tour of the classic Holy Land places and return to finish the holiday in and around Amman.

The capital spreads over the

surrounding hills in a network of residential roads lined with handsome stone-built houses and gardens reminiscent of the Mediterranean.

This was the Rabbath Ammon of the Bible, and later Philadelphia. It has a well-preserved Roman amphitheatre and other relics of the past, and the archaeological museum is worth visiting.

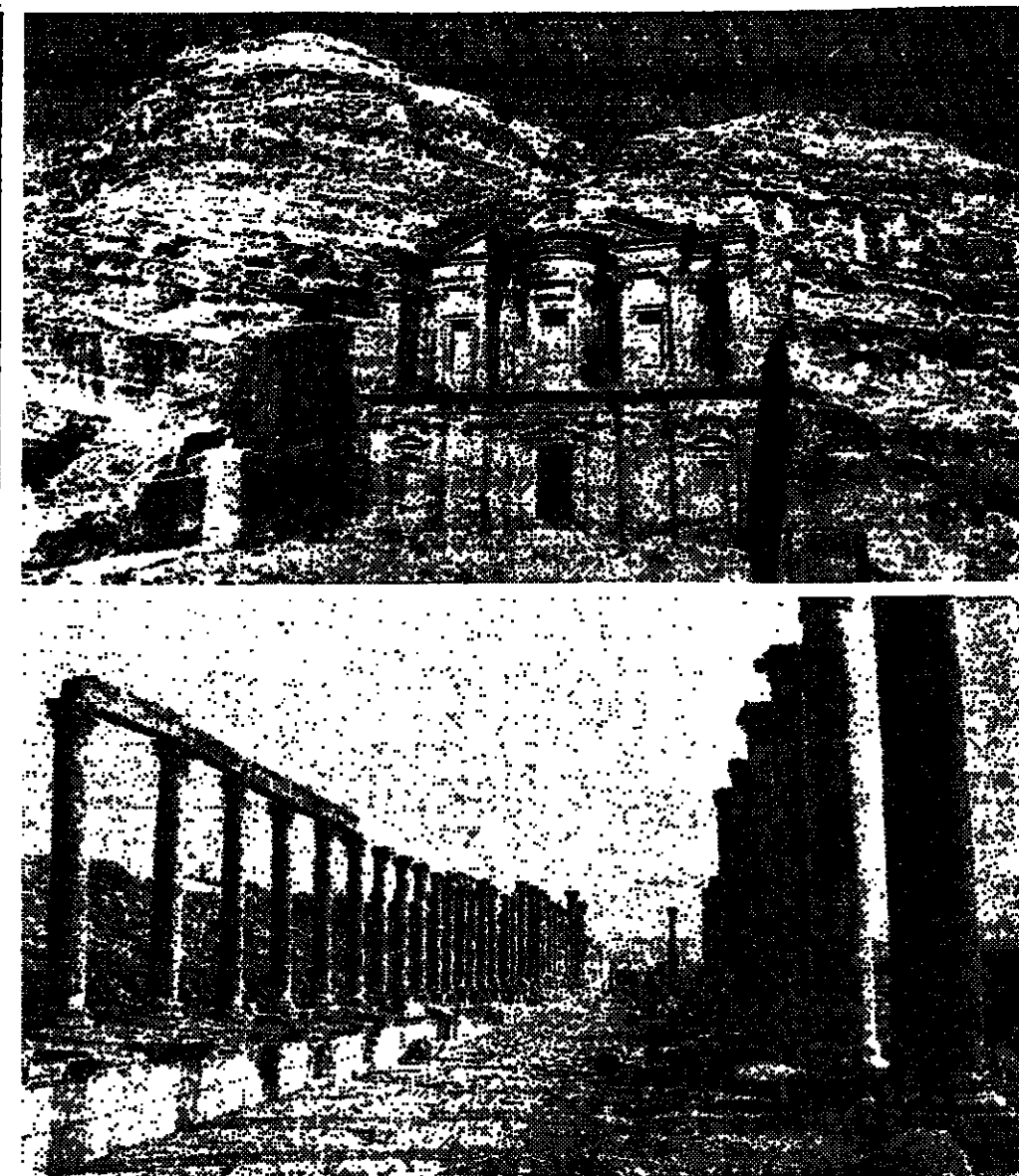
From the visitor's point of view Jordan may be divided into north and south, and all the northern highlights can be visited by day from Amman.

Greco-Roman Jerash, perhaps the most beautiful architectural treasure of the whole country, is only 40 minutes' drive from the capital.

To the east of Amman is the great oasis of Azraq with an ancient Arab castle which was T. E. Lawrence's headquarters. South from there in the desert are several more eighth century Arab castles and hunting lodges.

There are two roads to southern Jordan. One is the main desert highway, five hours' driving through to Aqaba. The other, which adds 2½ hours to the driving time, is the old King's Highway, a superb scenic route along the Mountains of Moab by way of Madaba and the crusader castle towns of Kerak, Tafilah and Shaubak.

Petra (1½ hours short of Aqaba) is the jewel of the south, the Nabataean city with its temples and tombs carved from the cliff walls of an enclosed valley.



Top: the Nabataean temple of al-Khazneh, one of the many buildings carved out of the rock face at Petra. Lost to the world for six centuries, the site - hidden in the hills - was rediscovered in 1812 by an explorer who heard rumours of a lost city from local beduins. Above: once a wealthy Greco-Roman city, the beautifully preserved site of Jerash lies among the mountains of Gilead on the road to Damascus.

In Jordan, "Ahlan Wa Sahlan" is more than a greeting. It's a way of life!



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THE ARTS

David Warner, one of the shooting stars of the Sixties, re-emerges from subsequent shadows in *Charlie*, which begins full of optimism on ITV tonight: interview by Bryan Appleyard

When the confusion and anguish had to stop



"Concentrating on the character was marvellous"

"Catch a falling star and put him under contract", they used to say at the Royal Shakespeare Company in the Sixties. Alternatively they crooned: "Where have all the good parts gone? Gone to Warner, every one." It was in the heated atmosphere of the mid-Sixties that David Warner was threatening to become the actor for a generation. True to the ground-breaking spirit of the age he had sprung straight to the top almost from the moment he left RADA. He had been the star of the film of David Mercer's *Morgan: a Suitable Case for Treatment*, playing a riotous, rootless youth with a penchant for gorilla suits. Then suddenly he was at Stratford playing Henry VI and Hamlet.

He was pure Sixties - confused and anguished as both Morgan and Hamlet. But he also inherited that decade's inability to maintain the momentum. Since those heady days he has seemed in a professional limbo, cropping up here and there but all too obviously failing to fulfil his early promise. The Central Television series *Charlie*, starting tonight, offers the chance of a return to some degree of prominence in England. But what went wrong?

"There have been circumstances", he explains cautiously, "circumstances apart from the career. All these things about promise unfulfilled. Warner in the Sixties and all that, it's in the past. There have been things - things I don't want to go into which don't go hand in hand with plotting a career. Not the marriage break-up. There were physical problems, physical health problems."

He mentions an accident in 1970 in Rome in which he smashed both his heels and was told he would never walk again. "It sounded as though I had tried to kill myself, which was not very good for getting employed. It was just after the Sixties and there were accusations of drug abuse. All that stuff has never been my scene. It's a physical problem which is hereditary. It's nobody's business but mine."

Warner emerged from various locations in the Midlands, the child of a peripatetic family. "There was no theatrical tradition but plenty of histrionics." He took to acting at school, when academically and athletically he had proved a failure. He joined an amateur dramatic

group to get away from home. "In the late Fifties it was either that or join a gang, you know, the coffee-bar set."

He went to RADA and, almost immediately afterwards, was appearing in Tony Richardson's *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Royal Court. The films of *Tom Jones* (he played Bliffl) and *Morgan* followed rapidly. Warner senses that this left him with a kind of vacuum at the start of his career. "I never really paid my dues as far as repertory was concerned. I think I lack a lot because of that."

Then came the RSC, where he was spotted by Peter Hall and asked to audition for Henry VI in *The Wars of the Roses*. He assumed he was auditioning for the role of Hamlet. He was wrong, he got the part and soon afterwards that of Hamlet in Hall's production. It was a performance that caught the imagination of the Sixties.

"It's not for me to say if it was the Hamlet for the decade or the decade for the Hamlet. I just don't know - I didn't see it. The only thing I can say with a degree of certainty is that the kids did go to see it. It brought a

whole new generation to Stratford." After five years at the RSC, however, he was "absolutely knackered", and left, entering the long twilight of the Seventies. That his accident should have happened in 1970, at the start of a decade which was to prove a lean one for Warner and the whole Sixties generation, seems all too appropriate.

He worked off and on until in 1978 he received his first invitation to go to Hollywood. The film - *Nightwing* - did nothing for itself but it did start a new period of work for Warner in mini-series. He won an Emmy for Best Supporting Actor in *Masada* and played a whole range of heavy, villainous parts including Heydrich in *Holocaust*.

It was in America that the producer Graham Benson sent him the script for *Charlie* and offered him the lead. Warner took it like a shot. Filming lasted three months, starting in August last year. "It's a long time since I've actually played the lead in something. Just getting up in the morning and going to work and concentrating on the character was marvellous. It was wonderful to have a really good reason to get up."

The private eye created by the writer Nigel Williams is familiar enough: a broken marriage, an unsuccessful, sordid business career, a hopeless optimism when it comes to cases and a saving lucky streak. In the role Warner looks drained and hunted, lurking into danger through ignorance rather than courage and yet always displaying enough underdog charm to persuade unlikely contacts to unburden themselves.

As so often in his career Warner cannot comment on the final version, never having seen it, but he is optimistic about its quality. The word round Central is that another series is highly likely and there is a certain self-congratulatory air associated with the whole project.

Warner's own hopes are high that the part will re-establish him back in England. It would fit neatly with the new stability he feels has entered his life. Certainly the Sixties - angst which used to haunt his features has melted into a weathered, slightly Californian look. Yet something about the style of the tweed jacket and flannel trousers still betrays his debt to a decade which was the making of him.

PUBLISHING

Romantic faction

"Yes! to everything", wrote Kathryn Falk, publisher of the *Romantic Times* and America's Most Glamorous Tycoon, in response to my request for exclusive information about the International Booklovers' Conference being held at the Cumberland Hotel, London, from April 8 to 15.

The Love Plane is scheduled to touch down at Heathrow from New York City on the morning of April 9. That evening Lady Antonia Fraser, John Le Carré, Alan Fisher, Marian Babbson, Catherine Cookson, Malcolm MacDonald, Violet Winspear, Lena Kennedy, Shinji Hata and others will be presented with special awards. Next morning the visitors will watch the Changing of the Guard, visit Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Mayfair and Belgrave ("home of the aristocracy") and, presumably, their home from home, Mills & Boon. Clearly they like their love plain.

And so it continues all week. There is a visit to Althorp House (optional trip - \$85) and a "special welcome" at the Hodder & Stoughton/Silhouette stand at the London Book Fair; indeed there is a "Hodder & Stoughton/Silhouette day with lots of extra special surprises in store."

There are book signings, too, and a literary luncheon - with the world's other most romantic tycoon, and the prize in a competition is "a ride with Barbara Cartland in her white Rolls-Royce."

There is bags of hard work as well for the readers of romance who aspire to write - or to have written - the stuff. They will learn about foreign rights, how to do historical research (with a little help from Lady Antonia?), and how to write story outlines and plots. Experts "will speak and answer questions about everything concerned with writing a book and marketing it on the international market."

And that, of course, is what this is all about. Romantic fiction is big business. In America last year each of the ten top-selling romantic novels sold over 1 million copies, and in Britain 8½ million readers buy romantic fiction.

I nearly forgot. Ms Falk gave me a scoop. She is starting a writers' organization in Britain, similar to the one she has in New York, and there is going to be a conference in London every year.

If Martyn Goff, OBE, had chosen to make his career in publishing, he would probably be a very rich man by now. Instead, this most enthusiastic of book lovers has, year in, year out, directed the National Book League whose headquarters are at cost-effective Wandsworth.

The NBL is the sort of necessary organization which would be mourned in the event of its demise, but which no one

bothers to eulogize in its lifetime. So essential is it to the world of letters that it is simply taken for granted. Its aim, which it achieves with colossal success, is to foster the growth of a wide and discriminating interest in books. It organizes touring exhibitions and research projects and administers numerous literary prizes, including the Booker Prize. It has a major lending library of books about books, and a superb information service.

The NBL is a serious organization, run by dedicated and efficient people on little more than a shoestring. It does for books within this country something similar to what the British Council does for British books abroad. Its task, of course, is that much harder, as we are less inclined to read good books than the overseas audience.

If, as strongly hinted, the Arts Council were to withdraw the league's lifeblood grant, it would indicate a lack of seriousness and commitment to the past, present and future of English literature.

This year's London Book Fair takes place from April 10-13 at the Barbican Centre and, for the trade, is the most important event of its kind in the country. It is being suggested that next year John and Jean Public should be allowed to visit the fair for more hours than presently allowed. It is also hoped, according to the useful monthly publication of the Book Marketing Council, "to devise ways of selling books to the public." What will they come up with next?

Those in favour of permitting the public greater entry think, not unreasonably, that people sufficiently interested in books to want to attend would welcome the chance to see a wider range of new and forthcoming titles than they could find in any single bookshop. Those against the idea are less concerned that valuable titles might be pilfered (even publishers have been known to pilfer other publishers' books) than that the public might be bemused as to what publishers do there.

There are parties and receptions, and if you chat up a friendly publicity person you might be given a glass of something on one of the more than 500 stands. There are promotional demonstrations and book launches (they would hardly be boats) to the trade, press and public. There is a separate area for companies which issue software, as if those which publish your old-fashioned kind of books would rather not mix. And there will be "meet the author" sessions in spite of most members of the trade spending much of their time trying to avoid the originators of the product.

E. J. Craddock

Television

Cultured curiosity

Thanks to Channel 4, one of television's quieter success stories is currently being given the accolade it has long deserved. Jeremy Marre's tenacious pursuit of folk music in every corner of the globe has yielded a long string of memorable programmes last night saw the third in a new batch gathered from the East.

Marre's resolutely sociological approach does have its drawbacks, of course. His commentaries are not as free as they might be from clichés of the "East-meets-West", "Old-versus-the-New" variety. His partisan support for peasant art forms and his puritanical contempt for "easy life" lead him to assert, of Indian films, that "the fantasy world of the big screen" prevents people "thinking about the real world

and how it might be changed", and that it has "no social function".

Luckily, however, he has too much curiosity to be content with any stereotyped view for long. He brought on that notable actor-producer Raj Kapoor to defend Mammoth: the typical viewer of one of his films might indeed be down-trodden, but in the celluloid presence of all those rajahs and jewelled princesses "for a little moment he feels fine: it is a dream that I sell".

Sukiyaki and Chips followed music through all its forms in contemporary Japanese culture, from rock to Noh, from whistling arrows for frightening the devil to the academics who believe that Japanese listen to music with the opposite side of the brain from that used by western listeners. *Two Faces of Thailand* offered some strange images, but none stranger than a home-grown Superman who sang: "I'm a single man/I don't need to love anyone/I'm afraid of modern Thai girls/With their

sharp tongues and itchy fingers...". Straight to the point.

There'll Always Be Stars in the Sky contained dazzling footage of some travelling actors in Rajasthan: we watched the leader of the troupe put on his padded corset and at length emerge, encrusted with jewels, as a magnificently sensual dowager. We also met an aged "play-back" singer whose infant songbird voice had been dubbed over the images of a thousand simpering queens in their peachy twenties; we watched a double wedding, one couple aged 12 and the other six. Such marriages are now outlawed: full marks to Marre for trapping one, with its concomitant stone-age ritual, on film.

Michael Church

Concerts

BBCSO/Lutoslawski Festival Hall/Radio3

Lutoslawski's music is the complete expression of the figure he cuts on the concert platform: dapper, beautifully mannered and gifted with a smile that both charms and wards off.

The natural worry with such politeness is that it may cover an unwillingness to say anything that matters and there are Lutoslawski scores where, Japanese fashion, the perfection of elegance is all. But the Third Symphony, which the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the composer's baton introduced to this country Friday night, is a

different matter. It is still composed with immense finesse - Lutoslawski does not have it in him to make an ugly sound - but it achieves ends far beyond that of nicely decorating half an hour.

The title implies as much. This is a real symphony, if one not so much in E as out of it: hammering on the principal note call up the fragmented ideas of the exposition, then kick off the much more continuous development, and finally bring the music to an end in a thrilling gesture entirely typical of Lutoslawski's ability here to make excellence of sound enhance effects of imaginative boldness. The wind and strings clamour repeatedly for the work to end, but the tuned percussion skitter in ever

more frantic activity, and then, just as they are stilled, the brass begin to bend out of true, until a quick slam prevents any more disagreement.

As this may suggest, the work is not just a symphony but also a concerto for orchestra, and it aspires at times to the bright tunelessness and expressive warmth of Lutoslawski's own work in the genre, a piece now 30 years old. In doing so, it reopens his debt to Bartok, the start of the development is a moment of canonic desperation akin to the chase in *The Miraculous Mandarin*.

Composed for the Chicago Symphony, the work demands a performance of giddy attack and virtuosity. It received one.

Paul Griffiths

YMSO/Blair St John's

A marked and fingered copy of the solo part of Delius's Suite for Violin and Orchestra tantalizingly survives, but with no record of any performance. So the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra conducted by James Blair did their characteristic bit and engagingly presented its first public performance on Saturday night.

Ralph Holmes, was the soloist; and few violinists could have brought out as affectingly and unselfishly as he the warm but tough pastoralism which pervades its four movements. Delius, in this robust early work, knew just how to strengthen what is often little more than salon sentiment by nudging and fracturing rhythm and harmony in just the right places. And Mr Holmes, too, whether in the hurdy-gurdy Intermezzo or the elegiac Adagio, reinforced his expansive playing with a sharp-edged, sinewy energy.

The brass principals of the orchestra, who had partnered Mr Holmes so admirably in the Delius, enjoyed themselves no less in Malcolm Arnold's Four Cornish Dances. Their wit and invention sustained - even through the *Box Phantasy* for Viola and Orchestra - overheat, and no doubt

lovely stuff to play, as Mr Holmes almost persuaded us.

The real revelations were to be made, though, in Elgar's symphonic study *Fallstaff* which concluded the evening. It drew forth all the stylish swagger and live tension between sections that this orchestra can pull off so well. And, in James Blair's hands, it revealed just that dramatic complexity that makes the work such a masterpiece of timing and terse self-expression. Elgar may well not be done more enthusiastically and illuminating service this year.

Hilary Finch

Music Projects St John's

It was more a case of transatlantic contrasts than "Transatlantic Connections" in the last of the New Macnaghten Concerts series, given by Music Projects/London under Richard Bernas. First we heard the world premiere of Gavin Bryars's *Effarene*, which the composer intends as a paraphrase in the Lisztian tradition of two of his operas to be performed this year, *Medea* and *Civil Wars*, and in particular the images in it that Bryars has taken from Jules Verne, that has had more

bearing on the present work's atmosphere.

Effarene is a mesmerizing sequence of four arias that presents side by side texts by Marie Curie, the Lebanese poet Eil Adnam, Pope Leo XIII and Verne himself. Colourfully yet delicately scored for four pianos and percussion - including a pair of steel drums - the work is dominated by Bryars's sweeping but simple melodies, sung here by the admirable Carol Smith and Linda Strachen.

If such music seeks novelty through exploration of the commonplace grammar of popular music, George Antheil's *Ballet mécanique*, which caused a riot at its Paris premiere in 1926, fractured all conventional notions of what music was. It is not, as often supposed, a music that glorifies the machine but rather one which takes the sounds of functional objects like doorbells and aircraft propellers and applies them, almost in a Dadaistic way, to an abstract art.

Here, played in the shortened version that Antheil made in 1952-53, the impact was still physically overwhelming. The players obviously relished their resurrection of a work which, like Varese's *Ionisation*, did much to emancipate the percussive element in music.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre Taking Liberties Tom Allen Centre

One of John Wilkes's biographers complained that even in an American town named after him they had forgotten who he was. Nor is he any longer a household name here. The main, in fact the only, virtue of Steve Gooch's play is the arresting contemporary relevance it finds in the confrontation of London with central government, attacks on press freedom and, in the unsavoury case of Wilkes's *Essay on Woman* (probably not written by him), the use of prosecutions for obscenity.

He has also unearthed the Garratt Green elections, an annual Wandsworth saturnalia when butcher, baker and candlestick-maker mounted the hustings for irreverent political harangues in the hope of being elected mayor. Londoners crowded in from far afield; even theatricals like Garrick and Sam Foote got involved.

The Tom Allen at Stratford, east London, is a community centre and the novels, in David Bradford's production, involve the locals including many children. As a result, what is basically a piece of journeyman history-for-schools playwriting sometimes looks more like a school play. They dance and enjoy themselves and the musicians do their best.

Except for one elaborately scabrous effort (Foot's contribution) the speeches are little fun unless you happen to be as half-cute as the Garratt villagers would have been. Paul Brightwell, a strong Wilkes likeness apart from the notorious squint, has none of Wilkes's wit to speak but pursues his crusade against venal royal ministers and harassment of *The North Briton* with grim zest.

Sir Jeffrey Dunstan, a second-hand wig dealer who seems to have been a character and a half and finally made the mayoralty, is not very likable or entertaining in Tony Keller's hands, even when drying during his star turn at Foot's Haymarket or reduced to selling himself as a guinea-pig to dental apprentices.

Anthony Masters

Opera

Francesca da Rimini Metropolitan, New York

It is easy to understand why James Levine would want to revive Zandonai's musty *Francesca da Rimini*, last performed by the Metropolitan Opera in 1918. First performed in 1914, this work is a prime example of the kind of lush orchestral writing endemic to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, with fat harmonies, outsize climaxes and the kind of chocolate-sauce sound designed to soothe and caress. If Levine wanted to show off his orchestra and his colouristic abilities, he succeeded - given some ragged playing in the clanging scenes - but he succeeded at the expense of nourishment, for *Francesca da Rimini* has little beyond an excess of carbohydrates to offer.

The opera is the Paolo and Francesca story, a basic operatic triangle of young woman married to older man who falls in love with younger man. This story seems to have had a hold on the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, from *Tristan* to *Pelléas* to such forgotten operas as Deems Taylor's *The King's Henchman*. Here the story, as elaborated by Gabriele d'Annunzio, has further mixed such fin-de-siècle traits as shock and cruelty - seen elsewhere in the operas of Strauss and Puccini.

Zandonai's talents at working with this material are definitely circumscribed. He is at his best in the love scenes, where his rich palette of colours, built around tremolo strings and harp, provides a sensual background which is intermittently effective (particularly at the close of the first act). But Zandonai is no musical dramatist, and apart from creating welters of sound cannot begin to define character in music, or to achieve a long-lined musical exposition. The music therefore needs in importance to a sort of pleasant background, highly conducive to dozing.

The second act is a battle scene, inserted to give welcome contrast, but, again, Zandonai's talents do not go beyond a raised noise level, while the

vocalism throughout is more declamation than singing.

The Met, as is customary these days, treated this farago to a first-class production. Ezio Frigerio's sets of the two castles were appropriately grandiose, and his set for the tower in the battle scene, though impossible to envision logically, became the basis for another Met spectacle show of drawbridges, smoke, flying balls and cue lifting, concluding burning ram's head which I took to be a battering ram (but why should those within a tower use a battering ram?). Franca Squarciapino's costumes, with their lengthy medieval sleeves, were equally lavish.

Although Piero Faggioni's production was somewhat more controlled than was Pierluigi Sammarin's for *Ernani* earlier this season, it was still one designed primarily to show off the singers. It was also freighted with moments of operatic nostalgia, such as a classic Soprano Chase (direct from 1940s stagings of *Tosca*), and the warriors all on cue lifting their crossbows heavenward in exultation. Perhaps Faggioni was trying to reproduce the sights-of-the-past, as Zandonai reproduced its sounds.

The best singing of the evening came from the Paolo of Plácido Domingo, stalwart as always - though his voice is becoming ever more baritone in timbre - and from the ageless Cornell MacNeill as the luckless, lamed and ugly husband Gianciotto. He has not much interesting to sing, and most of it is at forte, but that suits MacNeill perfectly. Renata Scotti's Francesca, however, was never sung with that fire and nerve the part demands, for her tremolo has now become severe.

If this production can be classed as James Levine's indulgence, it was an expensive one, both in financial and artistic cost. If he wants to show off his orchestra, there are better operas around, not least Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*, which was once on the forward list but has now been postponed indefinitely. Zandonai, it appears, is more to the taste of the Met and its public.

Patrick J. Smith

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The world boom that shouldn't bust

All round, the sounds of economic spring - that is, of forecasters ratcheting up their projections of world growth. It is now clear that by the turn of the year the seven big industrial market economies combined were expanding faster than at any time since 1976. That spurt has been enough to lift almost every forecast of world growth in 1984 above the dreary 2 per cent or so achieved in 1983 to nearly 4 per cent for the industrial world as a whole. Yet there is still a widespread fear that this recovery is already nearly past its peak, and will fade out during 1983.

It would be hard to claim that the world economy is overheating. There are 32 million unemployed in the rich world; perhaps a quarter of the poor world's workers are jobless or underemployed. Between 1960 and 1973, the industrial world achieved an average - yes, average - growth rate of nearly 5 per cent. Even if the biggest industrial economies have since become elderly and arthritic, there is plenty of latent industrial vitality in the

But all eyes are still on the United States. The American boom is expected to collapse under the weight of either its huge budget deficit, or the policies needed to bring it under control. Since the United States accounts for a third of total industrial world demand, its slowdown is feared as the cause of renewed world recession.

There is more of a touch of European defeatism about this argument. Admittedly, it is precious little use looking to the world's second largest economy, Japan, to pull the train: Japan still grows largely by exporting, which makes it a truck rather than an engine. But Europe itself - indeed the EEC alone - is now a larger economy than the United States. It is not immediately obvious why Europe cannot grow fast enough to outweigh the effect of an American slowdown.

The last two world booms were punctured by rising inflation or - skirting round some heated economic argument - the policies taken to suppress it. At no small cost in wasted human resources, inflation has been bludgeoned down to modest levels. Oil conservation has moved from the drawing-board to the factory. And the risk of a price cartel forcing up the price of other commodities has been reduced by the shift from industry to services in the leading economies, which makes them much less dependent on raw materials for each burst of growth.

In other words, the industrial world has, with more or less speed and efficiency, adopted the painful policies preached by the International Monetary Fund and its like since the end of the 1970s. It is significant that the IMF is now forecasting quite strong growth next year as well as this year. But Europe's contribution to this still looks inadequate to make a satisfactory dent in its frightening unemployment total.

Here, of course, America features in Europe's argument again. The United States has not followed Europe in lowering and stabilizing the public sector's demand for credit; so its monetary and budgetary policies are at odds, and the rising interest

rates and falling dollar feared during the resolution of this conflict will unsteady Europe.

This is a better, but only slightly better, alibi for Europe. It is no coincidence that the decade since fixed exchange rates collapsed has been characterized by rising unemployment. The rather open European economies suffer worst from the effects of currency instability. But in the immediate future, the prospect of a weakening dollar allows Europe greater freedom to lower interest rates independently, removing their main grouse against the Americans last year.

There remain three impediments to growth which are, at least partly, of Europe's own making. The first is that its own internal squabbles are beginning to threaten its own development, and only that development can really shake it free of dependence on America.

The second is the danger of a vicious circle of high unemployment and slow innovation, as lengthening dole queues increase resistance to economic change. However, it does not do to be too apocalyptic about either of these trends. It was not so long ago that the United States, not Europe, was fashionably criticized for senile decay. There is life in the German economy yet, and strong German growth will start up and re-unite much continental Europe.

But Europe's internal difficulties, combined with a reluctance to risk old-style reflation, mean it is looking to export markets for growth. Here there is a third and serious impediment. Between 1974 and 1980 those export markets were found all too easily among the new Opec rich. Now there are as many new poor in the Opec world. Naturally, other Third World markets have grown - non-oil developing countries now account for nearly a fifth of world imports. Most forecasters assume world trade will expand quite strongly this year; but the Third World's contribution to this is heavily dependent on the decisions of banks and governments in the rich world.

More cautious lending policies by western banks mean a far higher proportion of Third World imports will have to be financed out of exports. This year, indeed, export earnings in many developing countries will be used to service debt, and imports cut back. Even if that were a sensible readjustment of policy, it cannot take place at all if exports are simultaneously shut out of industrial markets.

The protectionist tendency is seen at its most dangerous when the United States, even in the middle of a boom, seeks to restrict imports of steel from the Latin American economy that owes most to American banks. If Europe's actions are no more long-sighted, protectionism could prove to be a worse impediment to growth in the 1980s than inflation was in the 1970s. The economies with most to lose from this are those most dependent on high value-added exports of goods and services. There are plenty of those in Europe.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

ORDINARY SHARES

A new breed in Fleet Street

Eric de Bellaigue

It may come as something of a surprise to those funding managers who discovered newspapers publishing shares in the autumn of 1982 to learn that there is more to them than Reuters. This is not to belittle the Reuters phenomenon, which has been one of the most important factors behind the massive rise in market values of many groups having both national and provincial newspaper interests - an increase that has for the most part dwarfed the advance in the stock market as a whole.

Viewed through the eyes of management rather than the stock market, Reuters is having very much the same pleasantly unsettling effect as a pool win: some see it as permitting a change in life style (Reed International's coming flotation of Mirror Newspapers, some as a means of coping with major capital outlays required in the existing business (the Telegraph Group's £60m investment in the Isle of Dogs); and some are planning further diversification moves out of newspapers using Reuters money (United Newspapers and Liverpool Daily Post & Echo are two probable cases in point); and finally others, for whom the covetousness of neighbours need hold a few fears and who can harden their hearts to begging letters, appear content to retain Reuters shares in the balance sheets (Associated Newspapers).

But Reuters, while not exactly yesterday's story, is already largely in the market, notwithstanding the fact that there is room still for some significant price movement should the valuation placed on Reuters either fall short of or exceed the very round sum of £1 billion, which is currently the consensus value.

There is also the well known phenomenon that the stock market often seems to enjoy travelling to a certain point more than it does actually arriving. The question has therefore to be asked, once the Reuters flotation is over and

managements have made their intentions relatively clear, is there anything to go for in publishing shares?

On the management front the major recent change in Fleet Street has been the emergence of the old Beaverbrook Group in its new guise as Fleet Holdings, run Lord Mathews and Mr Ian Irvine, an accountant from Touch Ross, neither of whom had any previous newspaper links. In trading terms, the move from 1981/82 losses incurred by Fleet's national newspapers of £2.2m (nine months) to profits of £2.9m in 1982/83 reflects an improved cyclical environment but also the impact of tighter management controls.

Looking ahead, the next major management change in Fleet Street is the emergence of an independently owned Mirror Group Newspapers under the chairmanship of Mr Clive Thornton, whose time at the Abbey National building society was characterized by ebullient innovation. Here again, no newspaper background, but rather a style of management instinctively suspicious of received opinion.

Thirdly, Mr Rupert Murdoch has broken with many Fleet Street traditions. While his background is conspicuously non-newspaper, there is a distinctive toughness to the way that his newspapers are run. The turnaround at Times Newspapers bears witness to this.

In short, Fleet Street management is undergoing major change with the introduction of outsiders motivated primarily by business considerations. In terms of circulation, this new breed now accounts for 75 per cent of the national daily circulation (16 per cent of quality) and 85 per cent of the national Sunday circulation (46 per cent of quality and 89 per cent of popularity). This is not to

say that old habits die easily. The employers' disarray on the occasion of the TUC's day of action made the point.

On the union side in Fleet Street, the signs of change are harder to identify. Only last week, the independence of Fleet Street chapels within their own unions was demonstrated when, in an advertisement in the Financial Times, the National Graphical Association Financial Times machine managers' chapel dissociated itself from remarks, carried in the same issue, made by Mr Tony Dubbins, their general secretary elect, on the terms of the NGA's acceptance of technology in provincial offices. On the more positive side, the decentralization of production involved in the opening of plants in the dockland by News International in the summer of 1984 and the Telegraph group planned for April 1987, together with more modest developments such as "top up" facilities for the Mail on Sunday at Croydon, should go some way towards breaking down various traditional union alliances.

It is, however, in provincial newspapers that the battle is being fought for efficient production based on the effective use of modern equipment, notably through the elimination of double keying in composition. While the Newspaper Society's effort at a collective agreement known as Operation Breakthrough has been dubbed "Operation Seethrough" by the other side, the fact that negotiations are taking place represents progress. Perhaps, though, the most significant developments are those at the offices of a handful of provincial newspaper groups.

Among the quoted companies, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers stands out; the chairman, Sir Richard Storey, has been identified for years with the cause of single keying, which has become a

Fresh setbacks overshadow Latin American debt talks

By Michael Prest

Senior bankers from round the world will redouble their efforts to avert another Latin American debt crisis as they gather today for the opening session of the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank at Punta del Este in Uruguay.

But their labours will be overshadowed by the bank's annual report, published yesterday, which says that the Latin American economy contracted last year for the third successive year.

The 43 members of the IADB, some of which are developed countries outside the region, will also be acutely conscious of the failure last week to reach agreement over the repayment by Argentina of \$2,700m (£1,875m) in interest

and principal on its \$43,600m foreign debt. Latin America as a whole owes about \$350,000m. Confidence in the ability of all parties to reach agreement was not improved over the weekend by Friday's speech by Señor Raul Alfonsín, president of Argentina, in which he accused creditor nations of leading the world into financial crisis.

In a speech to more than 60,000 supporters, celebrating the first 100 days of the restoration of democracy, Señor Alfonsín said that the unjust relationship between industrial countries and the developing countries "condemns the nations of the periphery to be every day poorer."

But the IADB, while estimating that Latin America's gross

domestic product declined by 3 per cent last year and its per capita income fell twice as fast, admitted that the outlook appeared brighter towards the end of last year. Nevertheless, the bank calculates that the combination of restrictions on government spending, collapse of export markets, and sharp reduction of capital inflows, depressed per capita gross domestic product for the whole region to below the level of 1977.

Some countries, moreover, the bank says, saw their per capita fall below standards reached in the 1960s. "By 1982, seven countries of the region saw a full decade of rising incomes wiped out, as their per capita GDP fell to 172 levels or lower," the bank concludes.

One superficially encouraging aspect of 1983 was that the region's merchandise trade balance was \$30,000m in surplus after swinging \$8,000m into surplus in 1982. But the IADB points out that the improvement was almost wholly the result of severe restrictions on imports.

Should the world recovery falter, therefore, the chances of Latin America easing its debt burden by exporting more could diminish, the IADB says. Nevertheless, Señor Antonio Ortiz Mena, chairman of the bank, said yesterday that a debtors' cartel would not be formed. But he cautioned that it was impossible for Latin America to remain a net exporter of capital for long.

National Savings up £262m

By Derek Pain

The National Savings movement continues to close on its target of selling £3 billion worth of government debt to the public in the present financial year. But with the inflation rate remaining low there was another run on Granny Bonds last month with redemptions hitting £77.3m.

The Department for National Savings disclosed yesterday that total net receipts increased by £261.9m during the month. This lifted the 1983-84 total contribution to funding to £2,868.3m. The main influence on the month's figures was income bonds, which netted £125.1m. Fixed interest savings attracted £94m and investment accounts £92m.

But Granny Bonds - index linked certificates - pulled in only £13.4m which, allowing for withdrawals, left an outflow of £63.9m. After interest and this was reduced to £50.6m.

The total inflow in February compared with £351.6m in January. Earlier this month the Government reduced interest levels on income and deposit bonds by one percentage point to 10 per cent because they had become out of line with prevailing interest rates.

British Airways looks at Airbus

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, has just completed a two-day visit to the Toulouse headquarters of Airbus Industrie during which the prospect of a possible substantial aircraft order from British Airways is believed to have been discussed.

There appears to be a clear possibility that not only may British Airways be interested in the 150-seater A-320, but also in the A-310 seating up to 250. This is because it may want to start replacing its 18 Tristars before the A-320 comes into service towards the end of this decade.

DIY exporters look to Italian market

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

A trade task force headed by Mr Michael Sieff, is launching the first concerted British attack on the Italian do-it-yourself market, which is worth £3.5 billion a year in sales and is on the brink of a specialized superstore revolution.

Mr Sieff, brother of Lord Sieff, the chairman of Marks and Spencer, has been a lifelong retailer and was formally joint managing director of Marks. His task force is one of more than half a dozen formed by the European Trade Committee, which advises the British Overseas Trade Board on export strategy.

The Italian do-it-yourself sector is an opportunity for exports which British manufacturers have overlooked, according to another member of the task force, Mr Richard Brown, president of Sterling-Winthrop Exports Group.

Sterling-Winthrop's products include the Roncraft do-it-yourself range and the company has been successful with an export drive in France, West Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Mr Brown said: "Do-it-yourself somehow hardly seemed to fit with the macho image of the Italian male. But at the last do-it-yourself exhibition in Milan, encouraged by what the task force was unearthing, we took space and finished up with five distributors wanting to represent us in selling Roncraft lines."



Michael Sieff: "We need to move quickly"

A number of large retail groups in Italy are likely soon to launch chains of large do-it-yourself stores, according to Mr Sieff who has been on a fact-finding tour of the country.

In May a group of wholesale and retail buyers will be brought over from Italy to see British do-it-yourself goods.

Mr Sieff is concerned at the mediocre performance of British exports overall in the Italian market, where its market share is only 4 per cent, compared with West Germany's 16 per cent and France's 12 per cent. Mr Sieff said: "We need to move quickly to enable the Italians to assess the quality, design and value of British products. Italians appreciate a 'Made in Great Britain' label."

Ex-Grendon man plans comeback

By Our City Staff

Mr John Seymour, one of the founders of the controversial Grendon Trust which collapsed in the mid-1970s, is coming back to the stock market.

He plans to float shares of his Commercial and Industrial Securities, which includes caravans, engineering and specialist contracting, late this year. County Bank and the stockbroker Hoare Govett have been appointed to handle the issue.

Mr Seymour was a director of Grendon Trust, which had industrial and property interests, at the time of a bitterly contested takeover bid by the financier Mr Christopher Selmes, who was subsequently criticized in a government report for his conduct during the battle.

Mr Seymour left Grendon when Mr Selmes gained control in 1973.

Referring to the Grendon battle, the last big takeover encounter before the banking and property crisis, Mr Seymour said: "I have no bitterness. It was a useful experience and showed me how the City could work."

Mr Seymour, aged 55, has yet to decide whether to bring CIS to the full market or the US. In 1982 it had profits of £1.6m from sales of £29m and in the first half of the last year it made £1.2m. Further profit progress was made in the second half of 1983.

Esal seeks bank aid

Six banks are arranging a \$250m (£175.5m) package for Esal Commodities, the London commodity trader and broker, hit by Nigeria's cutback in sugar imports and foreign exchange payments, according to bankers in London.

But Mr James Coote, Esal's general manager, would only say: "It would be premature to make any comment". The package would delay payment of \$160m which Esal owes to banks and \$40m owed to creditors, including sugar traders, according to the bankers involved in the talks. Another \$50m would boost Esal's cash flow.

Esal had borrowed from its creditors, expecting payments from Nigeria, the bankers said. The six banks, in order of exposure are Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Middle East Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Credit and Johnson Matthey Bankers.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1121.3 down 7.2 (Change on week)
FT Index: 891.5 down 2.8
FT 100 Index: 891.5 down 2.8
FT All Share: 527.33 down 1.56
Bargains: 25.83
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 113.79 up 2.2
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1154.84 down 29.52
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1161.65 up 30.98

CURRENCIES

LONDON

(Change on week)
\$1.4375 down 95pts

Index 80.40 down 0.5
DM 3.7775 down 0.0125
FF 11.5850 down 0.0575
Yen 324.50 down 2.5

Dollar
Index 127.2 up 0.5
DM 2.6235 up 0.003

NEW YORK

Sterling \$1.4355
Dollar DM 2.6222

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8 1/4
Finance houses base rate 9 1/4
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/4

3 month interbank 9-8 1/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2
3 month DM 8 1/4-8 1/2
3 month FF 14 1/4-14 1/2

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10 1/4
Treasury long bond 9 5/8-9 5/8

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
Am 388 pm 387.50
Close 387.50 - 388 (289.50 - 270)

New York (latest): 386.50

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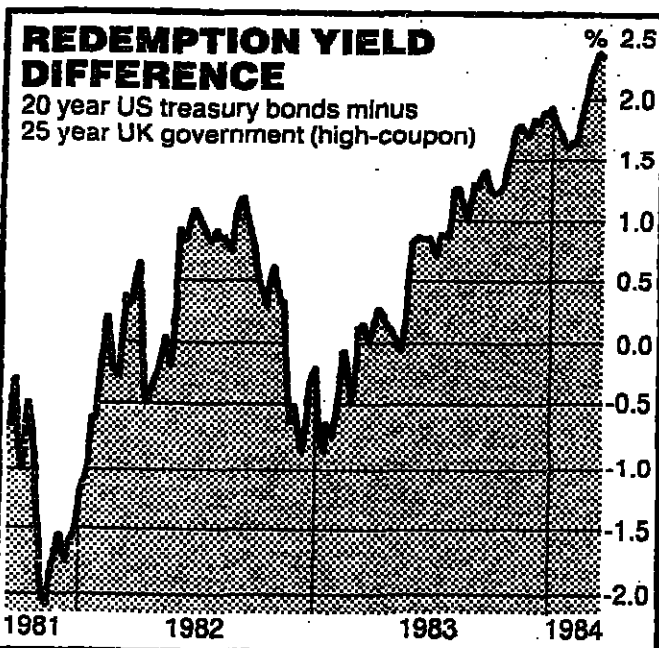
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THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

Budget fails to inspire prices

Geoffrey Finn



Mr Nigel Lawson's reaffirmation in his first Budget of the basic tenets of the medium-term financial strategy should have commended itself to the gilt-edged market. Yet this market fell strangely left on the sidelines at the moment of the Chancellor's parliamentary triumph, for reasons which were not too easy to fathom although some of the "blame" was put on overseas influences. While the FT Ordinary Share index rocketed by more than 60 points in over 900 in the week following Budget Tuesday, a rise of 7 per cent, the FT Government Securities index, the most widely followed barometer of the gilt-edged market's state of health, stumbled hesitantly within the same narrow trading furrow. It has inhibited for the past five months. The initial reaction was a fall from its pre-Budget level of 83.50 to 83.00 last Thursday followed by a modest recovery to 82.12, still short of the 1983-84 peak of 83.77 reached on January 9.

This muted response is all the more disappointing considering the extremely favourable crop of economic indicators since the Budget, plus half a percentage point in the banks' base rates to 8½ per cent, their lowest level for almost six years, and of a percentage point to 10½ per cent in building society mortgage rates, which should favourably influence the published inflation indices over the next couple of months.

Mr Lawson's optimism about the Retail Price Index is probably justified: those who prefer not to share it point to the trend of industrial earnings, growing at an annual rate of 7½ per cent. The potential in-

flationary impact of high earnings growth is being blunted at present by a rapid rise in industrial productivity.

There is a school that argues the Chancellor has taken a gamble. His assumptions of future economic growth, which has been set at 3 per cent for 1984/85, are questioned. The effective exchange rate is, somewhat riskily, assumed to remain unchanged. He omitted from both his Budget speech and from the accompanying financial statement any precise statement as to how the various measures of broad and narrow

money supply are expected to relate to interest rates, fiscal policy or funding strategy. It is true that target bands for both the broadly based sterling M3 and recently introduced narrow measure were specifically defined, but this does not remove the other areas of doubt.

Much of the scepticism now being voiced will probably prove to be unwarranted and the Chancellor's optimism will be vindicated. There remains, however, the nagging problem of the present depressed level of financial confidence in the

United States where, against a background of record internal and external deficits, vigorous economic growth and corresponding fears that inflationary pressures will intensify, prime rates have just risen by half a point to 11½ per cent and long-dated Treasury bond prices have just slumped to their lowest point since August 1982.

The chart shows how dramatically the gap has now widened between yields on long-term US Treasury bonds over those available on long-dated British Government securities to a post-war peak of over 230 basis points. A rare phenomenon. While this trend demonstrates vividly the extent to which British interest rates are capable of moving independently of those in New York ("decoupling" in the new jargon) the width of the gap may materially inhibit the further advance in gilt prices otherwise merited by Mr Lawson's efforts on March 13.

That said, an extremely strong case can be made for private investors in the 60 per cent tax bracket considering the low-coupon shorts and medium-term bonds they have recently lost ground, first as a result of the changed tax treatment of building societies' gilt-edged capital gains and more recently by the abolition of the 15 per cent investment income surcharge. At current levels they offer unmatched value. For example, 60 per cent taxpayers can obtain grossed-up net redemption yields ranging from 16.96 per cent on Treasury 3 per cent 1986 at 88½ to 18 per cent on Exchequer 2½ per cent 1987 at 88½. These bargains are too attractive to ignore and unlikely to last much longer.

The author is a partner in the stockbroker Rowe & Pittman.

US NOTEBOOK

Wall Street founders in face of recovery

As the stock market fell 20 points in the last two days of last week, gloom spread throughout Wall Street.

From its 1982 low, the New York Stock Exchange Composite Index (the NYSE) had risen nearly 70 per cent from under 60 to 100 in June 1983. By Friday, the NYSE index for March was just over 91 - a loss of 9 per cent in nine rather harrowing and certainly very disappointing months since the June 1983 peak.

Yet, between the March quarter of 1983 and the March quarter of 1984, there has been a strong economic recovery. In the second quarter of 1983 real gdp rose at a rate of 9.7 per cent a year, in the third quarter at 7.6 per cent, in the fourth at 5 per cent and in the first quarter of 1984 at 7.2 per cent a year. The stock market plainly far more interested in the future than in the past.

Who killed the stock market? There were two guilty parties: the Federal Reserve and the Washington political apparatus, including the Administration and Congress.

The Fed killed the bonds in October 1982 when the bond markets realized money growth was excessive and bonds stopped rising. Any prospect of a revival of the bond market was removed by the strong growth of banks' reserves in the second half of 1983 and early 1984.

The Administration and Congress failed to gain any significant control over the growth of government spending. The importance of this failure was in the doubts it raised about the sustainability of economic growth. With government taking more than 40 per cent of gdp, the stock market was entitled to ask what possibility existed of any expansion being sustainable.

Plainly, the stock markets have concluded that with such a weight of government dead weight piled on this struggling infant recovery, the child would soon be suffocated.

The bond markets have been delivering a similar story. They simply do not believe it is possible for this recovery to proceed much further without running into serious inflation. They are certainly entitled to believe this on the basis of their experience of every recovery in the past 15 years. With the same old team at the helm in the Fed, the bond markets have concluded nothing has changed.

It is indicative of the mood of the United States, that the bond markets should suddenly be filled with hope for a sharp drop in economic growth in the second quarter of this year to an annual rate of 2 per cent. This would be the occasion for a sharp bond market rally. How low has the Federal Reserve fallen in the estimation of the financial markets.

The gloom in the stock market is so pervasive that it is not merely pointing to an end to the present recovery: it is becoming a factor in bringing the recovery to an end. With stock market ownership so widely dispersed in America, a prolonged period of weak stock markets cuts into the strength of consumer spending and undermines consumers' confidence to borrow.

This is an important issue now because of the big reduction in the net wealth of the household sector. According to Mr Robert Stinch, chief economist at Bear Stearns, net household investment has fallen from \$275 billion in the third quarter of 1982 to \$125 billion in the fourth quarter of 1983.

Not surprisingly, American investors are being urged to get their money out of America. As Brexell Burham Lambert told readers of his *International Investment Monthly*: "Equity markets in the US have underperformed those of every other major country since the beginning of 1984 both in local currency and dollar terms. We believe that, broadly speaking, this pattern will continue in the months ahead. Hence our strong recommendation that fully half of global portfolios be deployed in foreign securities and gold. This position remains grounded in our belief that developments at the margin will generally favour such investments over those in US dollar-denominated financial assets."

Maxwell Newton

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8½%
Bancrofts	8½%
Barclays	8½%
Citibank Savings	110½%
Consolidated Creds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	8½%
Lloyds Bank	8½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	8½%
Williams & Glyn's	8½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
7 day deposits on terms of 12 months £10,000, 8½%, £10,000 up to £50,000, 9½%, £50,000 and over, 10½%

ICE DANCING: CLIMAX TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Perfection in a lower key as Torvill and Dean make their grand finale

From John Hennessy, Ottawa

It was a bitter-sweet moment. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean stood on the podium of the championship ice skating rink, celebrating a triumph even more emphatic than any in the past, while a tenor sang the national anthem and the Union Jack climbed the centur flagpole.

The occasion, however, was tinged with the sad recognition that the scene would never be repeated.

We shall see more of them in the years ahead, much more, but in a professional role devoid of the bite of competition. After four world ice dance titles, three European titles (missing one through injury), and, of course, the Olympic title, they have virtually skated off the sports pages and on to those more concerned with arts, where, perhaps, they have properly belonged for some time.

They are to give farewell glances under the sponsorship of Rowena (UK) at their native Nottingham on April 25 and 26 and at Richmond the following evening before turning professional. After a holiday, they will return to England around April 15.

Statistically, their Bolero free dance on Saturday night, postponed from the afternoon because of a power failure, topped all that had gone before, since their 13 maximum marks of 6.0 is a record, so far as the archives here can show, for any form of skating. Four judges, those from Hungary, Italy, Britain, and Japan gave them the ultimate accolade for the both technical merit and artistic impression: those from Austria, the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada and Switzerland, satisfied themselves with 5.9 and 6.0.

Yet again, then, they had a

clean sweep for the second mark. They have now totted up the astonishing number of 123 since effectively beginning with the revelation of their Mack and Mabel programme in the St. level competition at Richmond in the autumn of 1981. There were, though, two isolated cases in the British championships of 1978 and 1979.

And yet, and yet, if Torvill and Dean were able to reach the judges on Saturday night on the strength of the superb command of their art, they were unable quite to touch the heart as they had been able to memorably in the Winter Olympics. Perhaps they lacked the Olympic inspiration; perhaps earlier results in the week had distanced them safely from any likely challenge, and dulled the edge of incentive; perhaps the lightness of the arena, which brought the spectators almost to the edge of the rink, had a claustrophobic effect in contrast to Sarajevo, where they had seemed to be in a remote world of their own, skating for each other regardless of the watching audience.

Whatever the reason, the magic was not quite there, not at least for one stony-hearted camp follower. For all that, by normal standards, they were, singly received, a rapturous ovation from an audience of 10,000 now able to boast that they once saw Torvill and Dean live, much as one treasures the memory of one brief glimpse of Donald Bradman.

If any compensation were needed, it was provided by the second British couple, Karen Barber and Nicky Slater, about to suffer a severe attack of anti-climax, it seemed, as the cheers rang out for their seniors. But from the happy moment when

both British couples exchanged handshakes and hugs on the ice, the one about to leave the scene, the other about to assume their mantle, Barber and Slater went on to give the performance of their lives.

Their free programme, based on silent movies, demands recognition and feedback from the audience. There was little of that at either Budapest during the European championships, or Sarajevo, but within seconds he Canadians got the message as Slater brilliantly mimicked Chaplin, and Barber, just as brilliantly, evoked the little man's wondrous soubrette. The earlier stages of the competition had given Barber and Slater no chance of advancing above fifth place, but equally, they made convincingly sure that nobody would overtake them. Beyond that, their reputation has soared, and with the departure of Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, American winners of the bronze medals, along with that of Torvill and Dean, the opening is there for them to take their place on the podium next year. The fascinating question of which place.

● To commemorate their latest success, a new rose has been named after Britain's champion ice skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. The pink and yellow hybrid will make its public debut at the Chelsea Flower Show in May.

ICE DANCING: Final Medals: 1. J. Torvill/C. Dean (GB) 2.2 pts. 2. N. Bestmanov/A. Bulin (USSR) 4.4 pts. 3. J. Blumberg/M. Seibert (USA) 5.6 pts. 4. M. Seibert/J. Blumberg (USA) 5.8 pts. 5. K. Barber/N. Slater (GB) 10.0 pts. 6. J. Watson/M. McCall (CAN) 12.8 pts. 7. E. Stenroos/A. Sobolev (FIN) 14.0 pts. 8. C. Delany/W. Brown (USA) 14.4 pts. 9. B. Ormerod/S. Schornberg (WGB) 15.0 pts. 10. E. Stolz/G. Gregory (USA) 20.4 pts. 11. K. Johnson/T. Thomas (CAN) 22.2 pts. 12. W. Seibert/W. Brown (USA) 23.4 pts. 13. I. Mikhlin/P. Puzoska (URS) 25.0 pts. 14. W. Seibert/W. Brown (USA) 25.0 pts. 15. A. and F. Seibert (WGB) 30.0

USM REVIEW

Stanley Gibbons to join market

Things have changed at Stanley Gibbons since Edward Stanley Gibbons opened his first stamp collector's shop in Plymouth in 1856 - just a year after the first Penny Black was issued.

Since then Stanley Gibbons has established itself as a world leader in philately and has successfully branched out into other related areas, including publishing and mail order.

From its new showrooms and headquarters in the Strand, London, the group attracts serious stamp collectors from round the world to browse through its extensive collections. Mr Clive Feigenbaum, chairman of Stanley Gibbons, estimates there are nearly 4 million casual collectors in Britain, and 20 million in the United States. Stanley Gibbons has 150,000 names on its mail

order mailing list, plus a further 30,000 members who have joined its Great Britain Club.

Over the past five years Stanley Gibbons has had a succession of owners, starting in 1979 when the group was taken over by Lestrade, which was in turn acquired by the Swedish group, Esselte. In 1982 Mr Feigenbaum and his colleagues arranged a management buy-out from Esselte after a deterioration in the fortunes of the philatelic market. Since then the board has worked hard to transform Stanley Gibbons from a traditional stamp dealer into a modern, stamp marketing organization.

Now the group hopes to press ahead with developments and acquisitions, and has applied for a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market. Details being released today show that Simon & Coates, the broker, will be placing 2.5 million shares (nearly 30 per cent of the issued equity) in the market at 100p a share and valuing the entire group at £8.5m.

Of the £2.5m worth of stock being placed, around £1.5m will be used to raise new money for possible acquisitions.

In the old days the Stanley Gibbons management concentrated its efforts on the serious collectors who made up only 1 per cent of the market. But when stamp values fell during the recession the group was forced to rethink its market

strategy. Now it is concentrating on other areas like mail order, modern and new issue stamps.

New technology has also enabled the group to make the operation more efficient and resulted in increased volume and margins. But the cost of this new strategy to profits has been heavy. In 1979 Stanley Gibbons earned pretax profits of £1.5m on sales of £11.7, but this had dropped to £472,000 a year later on sales of £12.6m. Over the next two years the group encountered losses of £2.9m and only after the management buy-out did it return to the

The USM prices table is on facing page

black last year, with profits of £910,000 on sales of £24m.

For the present year to June 30, the board is forecasting pretax profits of £1.1m, placing the shares on a notional tax charge on a pe of 15.27. At present the bulk of the shares are owned by Mr Feigenbaum, who speaks for more than 50 per cent, while the finance director speaks for another 20 per cent. The remainder is owned by the rest of the board.

The recession has proved a valuable lesson to the group, and its attempts at broadening its trading base to cushion further depression in the market are clearly evident.

Michael Clark

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A turnover exceeding £1.1 billion from 50,000 employees with a total head office staff of 58 people can only be achieved with experienced management and strong leadership working closely together.

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An important announcement to our stockholders:

Copies of the 1983 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:
Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, telephone 438 1599 between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of the Librarian.

CITIBANK CITICORP

BBA Group

1983 Preliminary Results

	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Turnover		
United Kingdom companies	61,158	61,558
Overseas companies	94,954	89,346
Total turnover	156,112	150,904
Gross profit	42,980	42,245
Share of profit of related company	1,685	1,199
Profit before taxation	5,513	4,547
Taxation	3,072	3,315
Minority interests	2,441	1,232
Profit attributable to shareholders	2,073	1,244
Extraordinary items	600	663
Profit for the financial year	1,473	681
Earnings per ordinary share	3.57p	2.14p

For 1983
Turnover increases by 3.5% to £156,112,000.
Profit before taxation increases by 21.2% to £5,513,000.

Earnings before extraordinary items increase by 66.6%. Dividend remains unchanged at 1.74p per share.

Net bank borrowings and the preference shares amount to £23,091,000, a gearing of 48.9%.

For 1984
Profits are expected to show a further advance.

BBA GROUP PLC
Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire

MOTOR CYCLING
Lawson the rain-master

From Michael Scott, Johannesburg

It took a downpour that left deep puddles along the racing line at Kyalami to let Eddie Lawson, of California, show the true depths of his racing talents when he won the first motor cycle grand prix of 1984 on Saturday.

Despite the absence of the champion, Freddie Spencer, sidelined by injuries from a worrying practice crash when his Honda's back wheel collapsed, Lawson's first place in the South African Grand Prix was anything but a hollow victory.

Confounding the critics and giving the lie to his own stated dislike of racing in the rain, he kept his V4 Yamaha in front virtually from start to finish, showing fine judgment and perfectly modulated daring. He beat even those grand prix veterans who had welcomed the unexpected rain as their chance to put experience ahead of power.

RESULTS: 300 cc: 1. E. Lawson (Yamaha) 2. R. Remon (Honda) 3. S. Sheena (Suzuki) 4. D. de Ridder (Honda) 5. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 6. B. Brundage (Honda) 7. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 8. C. de laet (Chevrolet-Honda) 9. C. de laet (Chevrolet-Honda) 10. B. Brundage (Honda) 11. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 12. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 13. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 14. J. van Duijn (Suzuki) 15. J. van Duijn (Suzuki)

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ROWING: HEAD OF THE RIVER

National squad triumph

By Jim Railton

It was an exceptional performance by the national squad in Saturday's Head of the River race. In this unfair but over-subscribed time-trial on the Tideway, the squad started in 31st position and was fastest overall by 12 seconds.

Before the race, the Italians looked to be the favourites. But Fiat started third and only finished second. The Hackney club, Lea took the bronze and six of last Sunday's record-breaking Oxford crew finished fourth in last's liverie. The London University "old boys", Tyrion, started 36th and, to their credit, finished in fifth place.

Last year's head crew, Thames Trainers, hardly plunged to finish seventh and the national squad lightweight came from the back end to finish tenth rowing in Nautilus's colours.

The Head of the River race unofficially marks the end of winter training and was greeted on Saturday by incessant rain. The national squad, which can still be strengthened, impressed before the first race by easily beating first Cambridge and then Oxford.

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FOOTBALL: LEAGUE CUP FINALS GO TO EXTRA TIME AND ONE TO A REPLAY

McCoist has the bite of an east wind

By David Miller

Rangers.....3
Celtic.....2

(After extra time)

Jack Stein has spent the better part of 20 years trying, often successfully, to persuade first Celtic, and then Scotland, that there is more to football than establishing one's manhood. The Scottish League Cup final blew away any such refined notion: eight moments of excessive masculinity earned bookings, five of them for the winners.

With sleet and rain on the distant Campsie hills and a biting east wind blowing down Hampden Park, the ninth Old Firm encounter in the League final was often as haphazard as the swiftness of hundreds of gulls overhead. I thought that the marginally better team, Rangers, would win, but the two suspended midfield players, Prydz and Redford, but the tactical handicap served only to increase their vigour and little, it would seem, to affect their style.

It was only 19 weeks ago that Jack Wallace returned to a struggling team at Ibrox, third bottom in the league, after his spells with Leicester and Motherwell. Low, a former fireman in Malaysia and there were no prisoners being taken yesterday.

The first intimidatory foul in fact, came from Celtic's low, a former fireman in Malaysia and there were no prisoners being taken yesterday.

The prize, as well as a significant financial reward of £64,000, remains on offer. Everton expect to have Steady, who was injured and withdrawn midway through the second half, fit for the return, but they must suspect that the luck that accompanied them earlier in the tournament may already have left them.

They still remember an incident seven years ago that cost them not only victory over Liverpool, but a place in the FA Cup Final. On that occasion, Hamilton's goal was curiously disallowed by the referee, Clive Thomas. The new name on their lips will be Alan Robinson.

Everton N. Southall, G. Stevenson, J. Bailey, K. Ratcliffe, D. Morrison, D. Gifford, A. Irvine, A. Heath, S. Shaw, K. Richardson, K. Sheedy (sub A. Harper), LIVERPOOL: B. Grobbelaar, P. Neal, A. Kennedy, M. Lawrenson, R. Whelan, A. Hansen, K. Dalgleish, S. Lee, L. Rush, G. Johnston (sub M. Robinson), G. Southall.

Referee: A. Robinson (Portsmouth).

Blackburn Rovers, the only undefeated team in either of the top two divisions at home, beat Cardiff United 4-1 at Ewood Park. Crystal Palace, threatened by relegation, won 1-0 at Fratton Park. Portsmouth have forgotten how to win at home: it was their fourth successive defeat there.

Leading scorers

FIRST DIVISION: 1. Rush (Liverpool) 36; 2. Armstrong (Tottenham) 21; 3. Christie (Ipswich) 19; 4. Johnston (Watford) 19.

SECOND DIVISION: 1. Davies (Sheff Wed) 24; 2. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 3. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 4. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24.

THIRD DIVISION: 1. Edwards (Sheff Wed) 24; 2. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 3. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 4. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24.

FOURTH DIVISION: 1. Taylor (Sheff Wed) 24; 2. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 3. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24; 4. Gifford (Sheff Wed) 24.

WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

Yesterday

Scottish League Cup

Scottish premier division

Scottish first division

Scottish second division

Scottish third division

Scottish fourth division

Scottish fifth division

Scottish sixth division

Scottish seventh division

Scottish eighth division

Scottish ninth division

Scottish tenth division

Scottish eleventh division

Scottish twelfth division

Scottish thirteenth division

Scottish fourteenth division

Scottish fifteenth division

Scottish sixteenth division

Scottish seventeenth division

Scottish eighteenth division

Scottish nineteenth division

Scottish twentieth division

Scottish twenty-first division

Scottish twenty-second division

Scottish twenty-third division

Scottish twenty-fourth division

Scottish twenty-fifth division

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Scottish twenty-seventh division

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Scottish twenty-ninth division

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Scottish hundred-eighty-third division

Scottish hundred-eighty-fourth division

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Scottish hundred-eighty-seventh division

Scottish hundred-eighty-eighth division

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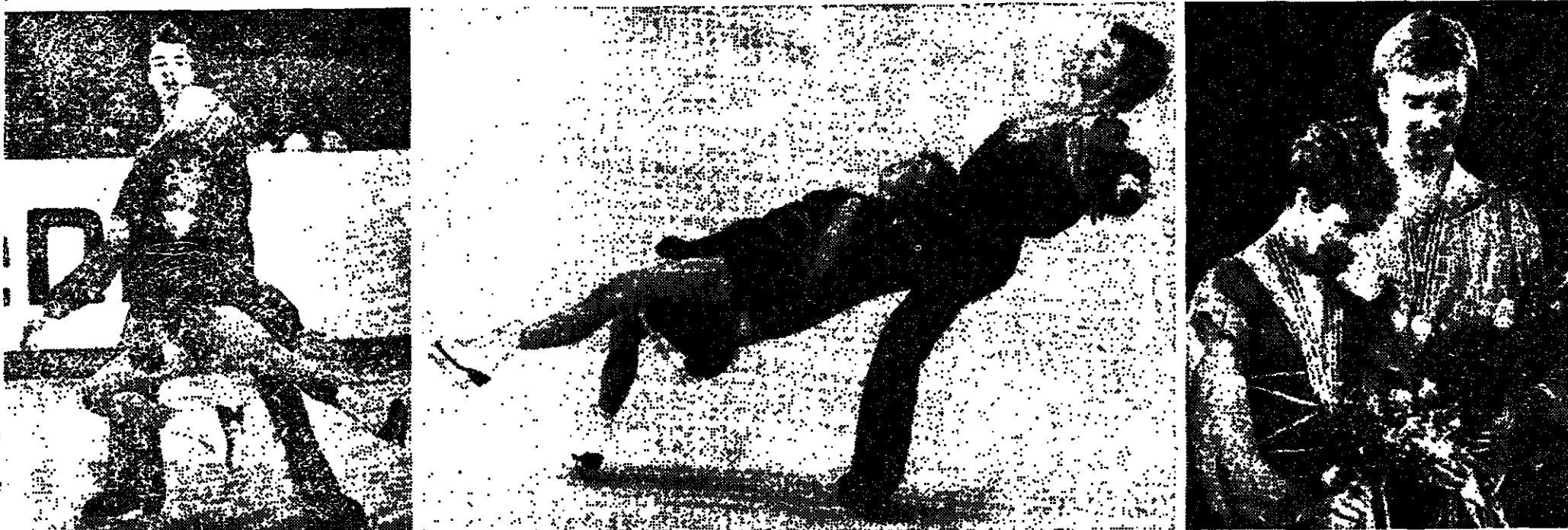
Scottish hundred-thirty-first division

Scottish hundred-thirty-second division

Scottish hundred-thirty-third division

Scottish hundred-thirty-fourth division

150



Letter from Amman

Of flower tubs and suicide bombers

The arrival of the 80 correspondents and cameramen to cover this week's royal visit - paying back one King Hussein made to London nearly 20 years ago - has inevitably played into the hands of the Arab fanatics.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

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